

WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



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FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk March 27, 2016

North & West edition No 705

ART

Is the Turner set for expansion?

Art gallery looks to the future as it reflects on first five years

MURDER

Brutal murder of OAP in his village cottage

Arrested man released on bail as probe continues

RELIGION

Bishop's Easter message

How faith can guide us through life's challenges

TRANSPORT

Just give it a rest, Boris

Mayor refloats estuary airport idea as Kent tells him to take a hike (again)

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Change is inevitable but flights of fancy are not

ONCE again, the focus this week has been on plenty of major developments proposed for the county on the thorny issue of transport.

We've got the end of the consultation into the third Thames crossing; the multi-billion pound arrival of which appears inevitable, wherever in Kent they ultimately decide to put it. Something, after all, needs to be done to ease the congestion in and around Dartford.

Then there's more debate on the lorry park which is being touted as our ticket out of the traffic hell caused by Operation Stack.

Again, given what happened last summer, it seems inevitable this will take place too. Even if Stack doesn't come into action this year (and it's easy to forget sometimes it only swings into force one or two days a year) none of us are going to be complaining about seeing our



Editor **Chris Britcher**

roads, lanes and lay-bys no longer packed full of parked up articulateds.

The joker in the pack, and something we certainly weren't expecting to see back in the headlines again, is London mayor Boris Johnson's Thames Estuary airport plan.

Don't expect it to be another big issue this year - this time around there's no real chance of it making any shortlist - but the fact it is still being supported, and by a man who many suggest could be the next prime minister, should certainly unnerve us.

Because if you thought a new tunnel or lorry park was bad, an enormous airport would change our county forever more. No wonder, then, the good people of Kent get so touchy about it.

Change has to sometimes be embraced or at least accepted. But not on this issue. And on that we should all stand firm.

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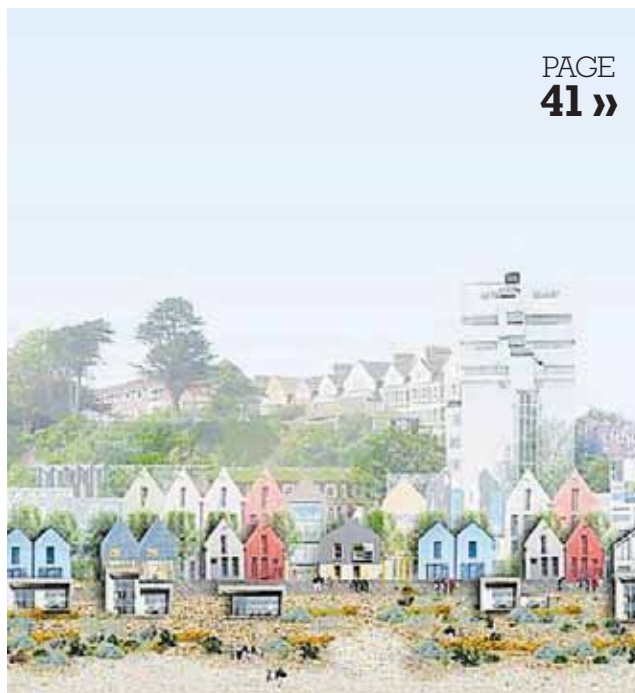
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Spring is here and the county is being given a colour wash courtesy of the bluebells



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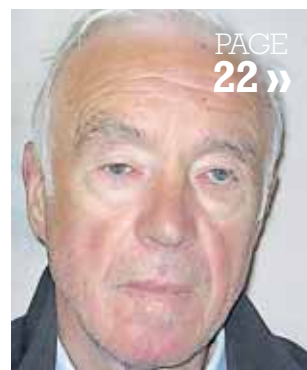
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Stack plans attacked in fears for public health

By Tom Pyman

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PLANS to build a giant lorry park "the size of Disneyland" to solve the problem of Operation Stack have been slammed.

Councillors and representatives of affected groups gave evidence to the government's transport committee in Westminster, where Highways England's plans for a £250m lorry park near Stanford, to take queuing trucks off the M20, were scrutinised.

Matthew Webb, chair of Stanford Parish Council told MPs: "The biggest concern to our community is the level of emissions these 4,000 lorries would give off - that will impact on the health of residents.

"There is nothing comparable to this out there and yet we are trying to rush this through without due process saying 'it will be fine'.

"I wouldn't want to be the politician who has to turn round and explain why a child is dying of cancer in 10 years' time.

"If you build one big lorry park, you build one big point of failure - if there's a breakdown or a fire that huge facility will stop being used,



STACK: The government's transport committee discussed plans for a £250m lorry park this week

and everything will be back on the road.

"What you need is small lorry parks that allow small amounts to be eased throughout the road network, then nobody suffers or has to take a big hit. We can all help to keep the traffic flowing."

Dr Hilary Newport, director of the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) added: "The industrialisation that would be caused in that area of

countryside is just not acceptable."

Others, however, spoke of their support for the idea.

Matthew Balfour, cabinet member for environment and transport at KCC, said: "The only solution to Stack is to have a storage area, but we need it off the motorway because if it's on the motorway Kent grinds to a halt. It's really important that we do something as quickly as we possibly can."

Natalie Chapman of the Tunbridge Wells-based Freight Transport Association added:

"Nobody yet has come to us with a convincing way in which this can be managed other than providing a single area site - it will be the simplest and easiest way to manage freight."

Highways England's consultation closed in January and its findings are expected to be released in the coming weeks.

Tens of thousands take part in consultation on lower Thames crossing

NEARLY 30,000 comments were made online over plans to build a lower Thames crossing east of Gravesend, as the eight-week consultation period into the plans concluded this week.

Highways England, the government agency which put the plans out for discussion, say analysis of all the contributions - which also included visits by nearly 13,000 to a series of public events in Kent and Essex, will now get under way.

It has insisted that while the consultation only focused on the Gravesend option - which will link the M2 with the M25 via the A13 - the possibility of building another crossing at Dartford is not off the table.

A final decision on a preferred route is expected to be made by the government later this year.

Transport chiefs say the building of a new tunnel - if that is the option preferred - will add over £7 billion to the economy and create more than 5,000 new jobs.

Highways England consultation manager Martin Potts said: "We appreciate that where the new crossing should go is a vitally important decision for local people and we wanted to get as many views as possible to make sure we provide a comprehensive and thorough recommendation to the government.

"We need to get the best balance between improving journeys and getting value for money while managing the impact on the local area."

However, earlier this week, Green Party officials said the plans should be "sent back to the drawing board".

Green councillor Martin Whybrow from Kent County Council, said: "The study pays scant attention to the environmental and human costs. The various options cause destruction to ancient woodland, areas of outstanding natural beauty, pockets of the Green Belt and agricultural land. North Kent already experiences high levels of air pollution with resulting health issues."

MoD confirms barracks to be sold off for housing

PART of Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone is to be sold off as the Ministry of Defence releases land it owns across the country in a bid to generate around £140million.

Burgoyne Barracks will be released and sold for housing.

The MoD says the 10 sites around the country are expected to provide land for around 7,000 new homes - the vast majority of

which will be released in time to contribute to the government's target of 160,000 by 2020.

Every penny raised through the sale will go towards defence spending.

The move follows the announcement of 12 sites for disposal in January.

It is part of the department's plan to reduce by 30 per cent the size of its estate.

Artist Tracey Emin marries ancient rock from France

MARGATE artist Tracey Emin hit the headlines this week after she announced she had married an ancient rock.

The often controversial artist, who grew up in the seaside town, is no stranger to gobbling up the column inches, with perhaps her most famous work being of her unmade bed, littered with dirty underwear, bottles and cigarette butts.

Now the 52-year-old claims she tied the knot with the large stone which she 'met' in France last summer.

She told the Art Newspaper: "It just means at the moment I am not alone."

However, in conflicting interviews, she claims the rock is still where she found it and also that it now resides in her back garden.



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Enterprise leads line-up of Dreamland revival

THE Enterprise, one of Dreamland's best-loved rides from the 1980s and 1990s is returning this Easter. The ride was one of the star attractions when the Margate amusement park was known as Bembom Brothers. And it will roar back into life alongside a host of other new rides including The Twister - a 1950s iconic and enduring fairground 'scream machine'; the Top Spin -

an 18 metre tall, 40-seat 1990s ride which will whizz you round, spin you in circles and turn you upside down. And, rounding off the new line-up, will be the 1950s Barrel of Laughs Rotor. It rotates until you stick to the drum wall and the floor suddenly drops from your feet. The park needs to dazzle this year after it was revealed it had run up debts of nearly £3m.



ARRIVAL: Stones arrive in Havana

Once banned Stones rock out in Cuba

DARTFORD rockers created a little bit of history on Friday night when they played a free concert in Cuba - a country where their music was once banned.

After the band's private plane arrived at Jose Marti airport in Havana with the four veteran rockers, family members and about 60 technical workers, Sir Mick Jagger offered a brief greeting in Spanish and said he was happy to be on the island.

Friday night's concert at Havana's Ciudad Deportiva arena came three days after US president Barack Obama ended a visit to the communist-run island during which he declared an end to the last remnant of the Cold War in the Americas.

In the heat of Cuba's revolution from the 1960s to the 1980s, foreign bands like The Rolling Stones were considered subversive and blocked from the radio.

Cubans listened to their music in secret, passing records from hand to hand.

The band's Cuba stop follows concerts in Brazil, Uruguay, Chile, Argentina and Mexico.

A plaque at Dartford train station marks the place Sir Mick and guitarist Keith Richards met before they joined the band which would go on to become one of the biggest in rock history.

Arrested man released as police step up brutal murder probe in village

By Luke May

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A 49-year-old man arrested in connection with the brutal murder of a pensioner in his home was on Friday released on bail.

Roy Blackman, 73, was found dead at his cottage in Headcorn Road, Biddenden shortly before 9am on Monday, before a post-mortem examination on Tuesday revealed he died as a result of multiple blunt force injuries.

Police believe a number of people were involved in what they describe as a "violent burglary", and are keen to trace a 5ft high mustard coloured safe which was taken.

Neighbours of the retired businessman admitted that Mr Blackman's residence was one of a number of homes targeted by burglars in recent years and expressed their shock at the death of a popular man.

Adrian Lidgett, of the Biddenden Neighbourhood Watch, told KoS: "We're very surprised at the news,



VICTIM: Roy Blackman

he was a well liked man, very polite and caring.

"Unfortunately he had suffered some break ins over the years, I'm afraid it goes on everywhere.

"His wife died several years ago.

He was a popular businessman who ran a garage in the village, though he'd retired since."

On Wednesday night a man from Maidstone was arrested but released on Friday morning on police bail pending further enquiries until April 28.

Officers are particularly keen to speak to anyone who may have been in the area of Headcorn Road between Weeks Lane and Frittenden Road from 7.30pm on Sunday to the early hours of Monday morning.

Officers believe the incident occurred between 1am and 3am on Monday.

Detective inspector Lee Whitehead, who is leading the investigation said: "They have targeted a vulnerable man in his own home leaving a trail of devastation in their wake.

"It's important these people are arrested and I urge anyone who has any information about this crime to come forward."

Anyone with any information should call police on 01303 289600 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

County in pioneering diabetes programme

KENT has been included in a programme running across England to offer the world's first nationwide diabetes prevention programme.

NHS estimates suggest nearly half a million people in the south east are at risk of developing the illness.

Diabetes is caused with the pancreas fails to generate sufficient insulin naturally to reduce sugar levels in the blood. Failure to do so can mean arteries get blocked, most commonly leading to problems with eyes, feet and increased risk of strokes.

Those identified as at a high risk of type two diabetes - where the pancreas generates some insulin but not enough - will be invited to join the programme to help them avoid developing the condition.

GPs will refer patients who they believe are at a high level of risk. These people will then receive tailored guidance including education on healthy eating and living.

Lord Heseltine given Thames Estuary role

FORMER deputy prime minister Lord Heseltine has been chosen to lead and establish a commission for growth in the Thames Estuary and surrounding areas.

The Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission will bring new infrastructure to help develop housing in areas of north Kent, south Essex and east London.

The news has been welcomed by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) as it pointed out some of the key economic drivers for the commission. These included London Paramount Park, the north Kent innovation zone and Ebbsfleet Garden City.

Acting chair of SELEP, George Kieffer, said: "There is nobody better qualified in the context of both the Thames Gateway and regeneration than Lord Heseltine.

"The economy of the Thames estuary is integral to the long-term prosperity of the UK, thanks to its ports and trade links to mainland Europe.

"The timing of the commission's announcement sends a positive message to everybody in the area that the government is committed to ensuring communities realise their full potential."

Have your say on bus route changes

A CONSULTATION into changes to 17 bus services across the county launched this week.

Kent County Council says the changes are designed to protect journeys as spending on subsidies is reduced. KCC currently spends £6.4m on subsidising 150 contracts across the county.

It has already saved more than £1m from its bus subsidy budget by renegotiating better contracts with bus companies, and is now looking to make further savings of £500,000.

Matthew Balfour, cabinet member for environment and transport at KCC, said: "Over the past five years council budgets have come under increasing pressure as central government has reduced its funding to the county council year on year.

"We have already had to reduce our revenue expenditure by £433m since the start of 2011-12 and the budget for 2016-17 requires a further £80.8m of savings."

The consultation runs until May 15 and people are asked to respond by completing the online questionnaire at www.kent.gov.uk/busreview.

Ukip demands South Thanet MP quits over spending row

By Tom Pyman

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THANET South MP Craig Mackinlay has refused to be drawn on calls by local Ukip activists that he should resign his seat amid accusations over Conservative Party spending during last May's general election.

Mr Mackinlay beat Ukip leader Nigel Farage by almost 3,000 votes in what became one of the most high profile and hotly contested seats in the country.

But allegations made following a Channel 4 investigation suggest the Tories may have broken rules on election spending limits while fighting the seat.

And that prompted Thanet District Council's Ukip leader Chris Wells to this week call for the MP to step down.

He said: "It is really important that residents should feel that the election of their representatives to Westminster is undertaken in a clean and equitable manner.

"For residents in South Thanet the suspicion of dubious allocations for election expenses continue to besmirch the reputation of both the Conservative Party locally and their representative in Thanet South, Craig Mackinlay.

"For the good of politics in our island, I believe Craig should apply for the Chiltern Hun-



PRESSURE: Craig Mackinlay beat Ukip's Nigel Farage in last year's election

dreds [a procedure in which an MP steps down], and fight again his election campaign as a by-election without the taint of wrongdoing that sits with his election right now."

The Electoral Commission is investigating the claims. They are that on spending on hotels in Ramsgate and Margate were not national campaign spending and therefore should not have been included in the party's expenses return.

The Conservatives, and Mr Mackinlay, have long denied any wrongdoing, claiming

all spending was correctly recorded in accordance with the law.

There are strict restrictions on the amount of spending in a constituency during a general election.

A source close to Mr Mackinlay declined to comment. On Thursday, he accompanied energy secretary Amber Rudd on a visit to Ramsgate where she warned energy bills could rocket should the UK vote to leave the European Union in June's referendum.

How did mother and girl die in their home?

THE Health and Safety Executive is helping police try to explain how a mother and her young daughter died in their home in Gillingham.

The bodies of Lillian Elizabeth Oluk, 36, and two-year-old Lynne Elizabeth Mutumba, were found at a property in Trafalgar Square more than a week ago. They had been dead several days. A post mortem failed to find a cause, The deaths are not treated as suspicious.

BHS rescue deal joy for shop workers

RETAIL workers breathed a sigh of relief after the short-term future of troubled department store BHS was secured.

Hundreds of jobs in the retailer's stores in Maidstone, Gillingham, Gravesend, Tunbridge Wells and Ashford were under threat as the firm racked up debts of a billion pounds.

Radio 4 Easter service

BBC Radio 4 will broadcast from the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate this morning (Sunday).

The national broadcast of Easter Sunday Sunrise begins at 6.35am and will last for 20 minutes - heralding the start of one of the most religiously significant days.

The broadcaster recorded Sunday Worship live from St Augustine's in February of this year.

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Print workers secure bigger payout after tribunal case

AROUND 100 print workers who lost their jobs when Aylesford Newsprint closed down last year are to receive a £750,000 pay-out.

An employment tribunal decided the workers should receive a 'protective' award because the company dismissed 20 or more employees without proper consultation with their representative, in this case, the union Unite. But it unlikely they'll see all the cash.

Some 233 staff members at the plant lost their job when it was shut - a decision motivated by a downturn in demand for news print as many newspapers continue to see circulations drop.

Unite regional officer Tim Elliott said: "The total value of the 'protective' award to our members is about £750,000. However, as the



company is insolvent it is unlikely we will recover the full amount. The £321,000 will be paid to our members from the government's redundancy fund.

"The sale of the company's land

will raise several million pounds and so it is possible that our members may also recover additional cash on top of that paid by the fund, but it won't be the full amount."

Construction under way on Ashford College site

STUDENTS at Ashford College were last week given a tour of the site of its new campus on Elwick Road.

The site, which is scheduled to open for business in September 2017, is currently under construction by BAM, and students were told of the importance of gaining work experience, to further their careers at the college and beyond.

The project is run almost entirely by a local workforce, and mayor of Ashford, Geraldine Dyer, said that was vital for ensuring the success of an area.

She said: "This exciting project will realise a long held ambition of the council for a high quality learning facility, right in the heart of the town.

"It is expected that the new college will increase skills levels and therefore lead to better employment opportunities for the residents of the borough whilst playing a pivotal role, alongside neighbouring development, in rejuvenating the town centre economy."

Chris Tyler, work placement co-ordinator at the college, added: "Engineering students learned first-hand from BAM experts about engineering developments at the new Ashford College site.

"They viewed site plans and learned about piling and drainage and the visit provided a world of work context to complement work in college."

The first two phases are being delivered following the award of a £3m grant.

Sky-dive charity success

A HOSPITAL healthcare assistant at the QEOM Hospital in Margate has raised £600 for patients living with dementia after throwing herself out a plane in a sponsored sky-dive.

Gemma McNutt raised the money for the hospital trust's charity.

TV's The Tunnel in Kent

VIEWERS of the new series of Sky Atlantic drama The Tunnel will recognise plenty of familiar sites after stars filmed in the county for 85 days last year.

The series returns next month and filmed in Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone, Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

Playground gets a boost

MORE than £25,000 is to be ploughed into refurbishing a children's playground on the Riverview Park estate in Gravesend.

The money, from the Young Person's Champions Fund will go on equipment with a further £5,000 set aside by Gravesham council for an eco/sensory garden.

Clocks go forward today

DON'T forget to turn your clocks forward an hour this weekend - heralding the start of British summertime.

The clocks shift forward an hour in the early hours of Sunday morning - meaning we lose an hour of sleep, but do enjoy lighter evenings.

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Top Three Stories



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Obstacles removed ahead of the boat race

2. SECamb Easter warning

Only call 999 in an emergency

3. Cannabis grower jailed

Frank Haines used £9,000 of electricity

The Essential Guide:



...to Operation Stack

Everything you need to know about the chaos of queuing lorries on the M20



FEATURED PHOTO GALLERY: Gukhas based in Maidstone have swapped the county town for a remote Nepalese community to help it rebuild after the devastation of the earthquake last year. See inside this edition for more pictures.

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Top Three Blogs



1. Greens on the crossing

Martin Whybrow gives his party's views

2. Straight outta uni

A young man's first step into the real world

3. Lorry lane needed

Why HGVs drive us round the bend

Results of the KoS Online Poll

Will you be voting in the PCC election?

- 1 Yes, definitely - 72%
- 2 Maybe, when I know more - 10%
- 3 Definitely not - 13%
- 4 The PC-what? - 5%

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“ Jesus is not just sympathetic to our brokenness...he chose to enter into all the mess and confusion of our world and live as one of us. ”

Bishop of Dover,
in his Easter message

HOLY: The Right Reverend Trevor Willmott has drawn strength from his friend's actions helping migrants at the Jungle camps in Calais

This Easter, Jesus leads us on a path through chaos and disorder

In a special article originally penned for Kent on Sunday, the Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend **Trevor Willmott**, takes a look at how this time of year should be one of reflection to remember the strength of the Christian message and how there is always someone offering care for our struggles

TODAY, the Church celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ - how, three days after suffering torture and death, Jesus conquered death and appeared to his friends.

One thing that strikes me about the accounts we read about the resurrection in the Bible is how messy and confusing it all appeared to be for the disciples - Jesus' closest friends.

Of course, they weren't expecting him to transform death into life, but even if they were, they might have imagined that it would all work out much neater, more clear-cut.

We're told that they struggled to recognise Jesus after the resurrection when he first appeared to them. Perhaps Jesus could have appeared to all of them together in a way that was clear right from the start so that nobody would be in any doubt.

Perhaps he could have presented himself to the Roman and Jewish authorities as a final demonstration of their failure to defeat him.

Instead - for the first few days, at least - there were individual sightings, rumours, scattered pieces of a jigsaw puzzle that didn't quite fit together. It's funny how God's ways differ so vastly from what we might expect and desire.

But messy it was. And I draw huge comfort from that, from the sense that Jesus appears right there in the

messiness and brokenness of our lives.

He doesn't wait patiently for us to sort ourselves out before he comes to engage with us. He doesn't expect us to have tidied and cleaned our houses - or even done the shopping - before he turns up at the front door for dinner. It's something of a cliché that 'God meets us where we are', but from everything we know about Jesus it's undeniably true.

Easter Day reminds us that God's truth is even more amazing.

Jesus is not just sympathetic to our brokenness. Instead, we worship a God who chose to enter into all the mess and confusion of our world and live as one of us - and better still this is where he reveals his love for us, his deep love for the world and his glory.

He dealt with all the challenges that being a human being entails - both physically and spiritually. In the gospels we witness his struggles with his own family, his friends and with the social and political powers of first century Jerusalem. He lived through good times when he seemed to be the most popular man in town, the leader everyone wanted a piece of. But there were also times when there was not a friend to be found, when nobody understood him and no-one could bear to be tainted by association with him.

He died a lonely, criminal's death, a disgraceful and painful death and was laid to rest in a borrowed tomb.



Even after all these years, every Easter I still find myself astonished by the God who loves us so much that he chose to live this life and to die this death for us to set us free.

This might not sound like good news, but that's truly what it is. Because when Jesus enters the fractures and messiness of this world, he transforms them. Interestingly, he doesn't always fix things - and how disappointing that can be for those of us who long for easy solutions. But by inhabiting our pain and brokenness, he can bring a different kind of healing, a wholeness that brings grace into dark places.

And not only does Jesus do that for us, he invites us to join him in that mission.

This is the task of those who would call themselves Christians: to be

present in the brokenness of this world. Not in order to fix things, nor to offer easy answers to difficult questions, but simply to be. And by that presence to shine Jesus' light into dark places, to dwell with people in the messiness and difficulties of this life.

Make no mistake, this is not a simple task. It's a call to powerlessness, to vulnerability. To release all of our preconceptions and the desire to offer solutions and just live alongside people, to face what they face is no mean feat.

I have been tremendously inspired by the example of my Buddhist friend Tom Radcliffe, who has spent many months living in the refugee camp in Calais known as The Jungle.

Tom's permanent residence is in Kent, but he and Shizuka his partner

decided to make the Jungle their home as an act of solidarity and love for those who had no choice but to live there.

Tom shared in all aspects of everyday life in the Jungle - he spoke, ate and worshipped with his friends there. As the French authorities cleared the camp, they shared that experience too - the crowds and the teargas, the disappointment of security lost and fear of an uncertain future.

I have no doubt that Tom's presence in the Jungle was transformational for his neighbours there. If nothing else, they knew that someone cared about their struggles, and that someone thought them significant enough to be worth spending time with.

The bombings in Brussels this week have reminded us again of the pain and darkness that can be found in our world, of the fractures in our societies and the conflicts that play out on local, national and international levels.

Easter is a challenge to us all to live in the messiness and brokenness and to let Jesus' light shine brightly into the forgotten corners of this world. But we do so in the knowledge that God goes before us and travels with us every step of the way.

Wherever you are, whoever you are, may you know God's love and transforming power in the messiness of everyday life. Happy Easter!



MEMORIES: Remember these plans for the Isle of Grain? The London mayor revived his belief it is the best way to ease the airport capacity problem

Boring Boris bangs airport drum again in desperate election ploy

Chris Britcher reports on the surprising return this week of the whole concept of an estuary airport

THE leader of Medway Council has blasted Boris Johnson's latest effort to re-float his Boris Island airport as yet another bid to win over voters ahead of the London mayoral elections.

And he revealed it had set aside a fighting fund when it fixed its recent budget amid fears it came kicking and screaming back into life.

Although Mr Johnson is stepping down in May, he has been on the campaign trail for his Conservative candidate successor, Zac Goldsmith.

And it is that, says Alan Jarrett, that has fuelled the surprise re-emergence of the hugely controversial proposal.

It was touted again as a solution in a 78-page document released by the mayor's office this week entitled *Landing the Right Airport*.

It once again said only an airport east of London would solve the dilemma of the south east's aviation capacity problem.

In the report it reiterated the proposal on Grain and another on fully reclaimed land in the middle of the estuary - north of Whitstable.

It also suggested major expansion at Stansted - already a hugely successful airport serving the capital.

The current proposals being examined by the government are expansion at either Heathrow or Gatwick.

Boris Johnson used a bid to close Heathrow as a carrot on a stick for voters in west London - suggesting it could close if the estuary idea was adopted.

However, in a major report by the Airports Commission, headed by the economist Sir Howard Davies, it rejected the estuary proposals saying they were too expensive and the environmental impact would be too extreme.

There was an almost deafening chorus of opposition in the county to the proposals - including this newspaper which campaigned against it.

Speaking to KoS this week, Alan Jarrett, the Conservative leader of Medway Council said: "Was I surprised to hear he was re-float the idea again? Yes.

"I'm more surprised it didn't leak out beforehand. It seemed to take everyone by surprise.

"But what happened last time is that Boris helped his election for London Mayor courtesy of the west London vote. They can lose you an election, and the airport issue proved successful. This time around, Zac Goldsmith will not want to lose it. It's just politics and we're all politicians so you understand why they do it. But it is still a ridiculous plan we continue to oppose.

"When we were compiling the budget we took the view that we should allocate some money just in case - to keep something of a watching brief on the issue. It's only £25,000 but we knew the issue could reappear. After all, you never say never.

"Certainly Stansted is financially more viable - there's already an airport there and there's substantial land around it. But it's not for me to say where it should go.

"What I'd like is for people to take



notice of the Davies Commission rather than just cobble some report together."

In the report, Mr Johnson, now an MP for Uxbridge and South Ruislip, claimed: "The only credible solution is a new hub airport, located to the east of London, away from populated areas but connected by fast rail services to London and much of the UK.

"Having considered a long list of locations we identified three: the inner Thames Estuary, outer Thames Estuary and Stansted. Each could accommodate the four-runway hub that London and the UK needs. Our analysis predicts that they would offer around double the number of long haul and domestic destinations served by Heathrow today, while exposing 95 per cent fewer people to significant aircraft noise.

"A four-runway hub to the east of London, rather than jarring with the growth of London will support it, cat-

alysing the regeneration and housing to the east. It is forecast to contribute £92bn to UK GDP in 2050 and support 336,000 jobs nationally. This would be truly transformational for London and the UK.

"We must do better than Heathrow. We need a long term vision for the right airport that sustains our economy and safeguards our public health. That airport is a new four-runway hub airport at the Thames Estuary or Stansted - one that can support a United Kingdom fully engaged with the world. I would urge government not to turn its back on our future."

When the Davies Commission threw out the estuary plans in September 2014, it said it would cost too much and had "environmental hurdles" that "may prove impossible or very time-consuming to surmount".

Sir Howard added: "We are not persuaded that a very large airport in the Thames Estuary is the right answer to London's and the UK's connectivity needs.

"There are serious doubts about the delivery and operation of a very large hub airport in the estuary. The economic disruption would be huge and there are environmental hurdles which it may prove impossible, or very time-consuming to surmount.

"Even the least ambitious version of the scheme would cost £70 to £90 billion with much greater public expenditure involved than in other options - probably some £30 to £60 billion in total.

"There will be those who argue that the commission lacks ambition

and imagination. We are ambitious for the right solution. The need for additional capacity is urgent. We need to focus on solutions which are deliverable, affordable, and set the right balance for the future of aviation in the UK."

The Kent Wildlife Trust was one of the many organisations which spoke out before and were dismayed this week when the plans made another appearance.

Greg Hitchcock, Thames Gateway officer for the trust, said: "We remain vehemently opposed to suggestions that the Thames Estuary area is a suitable location for an airport.

"Such proposals have surfaced several times since the 1940s and get no less ridiculous. Most recently the Airports Commission, an independent panel appointed by the coalition government, ruled it out for a number of reasons after extensive consultation and research.

"For the trust, the impact on internationally important coastal, intertidal and marine habitats and species is unacceptable.

"The area is complex and unique, and has benefits that extend well beyond its area - for example, by providing an important nursery ground for North Sea fish. We suggest that if Boris wants to find an alternative to expansion at Heathrow he looks elsewhere."

Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury and Whitstable, failed to return KoS calls on impacts of any possible outer estuary proposals may have for Whitstable.



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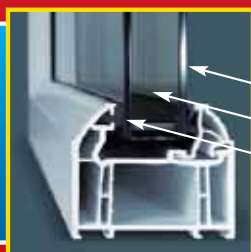
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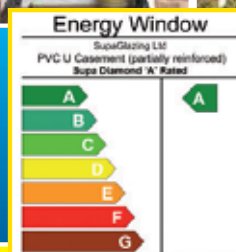
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Just why are Scots treating their scandal victims better?

CAMPAIGN: As part of our on-going series of articles calling for justice for victims of the blood contamination scandal, we speak to one Kent man who stands amazed at the difference in approach north and south of the border...

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

FINANCIAL support for people in Scotland affected by the contaminated blood scandal is to be strengthened with an extra £20 million over the next three years – a move a Kent victim says England should follow.

The Scottish government made the announcement this week as it accepted the key financial recommendations of the group established to look into the financial arrangements paid to those infected in one of the most shocking medical scandals in living memory.

Thousands of people across the UK, many of whom were haemophiliac patients, were infected with hepatitis C and HIV through contaminated blood and blood products by the NHS in the 1970s and 1980s.

Haemophiliacs are born with a condition which means their blood does not clot properly – meaning any bleeding could potentially be fatal.

The blood was sourced from a variety of donors, often in the US, among them prisoners and the homeless, in order to meet demand for products which provided temporary clotting assistance.

Following the publication last March of the findings of the six-year Penrose inquiry into infected NHS blood, Scottish health secretary Shona Robison set up the independent financial review group.

It recommended those infected with HIV, or who developed advanced hepatitis C, should get £27,000 per year – the equivalent of the average Scottish salary – an increase from the offer of £15,000.

Ms Robison confirmed she has accepted in full the financial recommendations put forward by the group which involved patient and family representatives.

A new Scottish support and assistance grants scheme will be established to administer financial support, with funding for it increasing from £300,000 to £1 million per year.

Broadstairs' Steve Dymond, who turns 60 on Monday, is a haemophiliac who took Factor VIII when he was young. It infected him with hepatitis C which attacks the liver.

He recently had a cancer scare caused by the damage caused, and he and his wife have just £15,000 a year to live on as the impact on his health has prevented him from

continuing his career as a teacher.

He has been vocal in his demands for justice for those still suffering as a result of the medical error.

"Cross Hadrian's Wall and enter into Scotland on the contaminated blood trail and what a difference we find in compassion," he told KoS this week.

"Unlike the cynical denials that compensation should be paid, despite prime minister David Cameron's unfulfilled promises in England, the Scottish government is apparently still working towards that goal.

"A reasonable annual income is proposed, double that on offer in England, and widows and bereaved partners are to be protected for life – in contrast to a minimal payment in England and the obligation to tip a begging bowl at the right angle for tiny charitable hand outs."

Current support packages for those affected by infected blood are delivered through UK-wide schemes.

The recommendations in Scotland also include increasing annual payments for people with both HIV and hepatitis C from £30,000 to £37,000.

When a recipient dies, their spouse or civil partner will continue to receive 75 per cent of their annual payment.

Those infected with chronic hepatitis C will receive a £50,000 lump sum payment – previously £20,000.

Ms Robison said: "Infected blood is one of the most terrible chapters in the history of our NHS.

"Those affected have suffered dreadful impacts on their health, life expectancy and quality of life, including financial losses.

"It is quite right that they and their families are given adequate support to help them cope with consequences for which they are entirely blameless.

"I am pleased to be able to accept the key financial recommendations in full. This will mean a substantial package of additional financial support, recognising the hardships many face."

Patrick McGuire, partner with Thompsons Solicitors and the lawyer representing the majority of victims, said it was "an extremely important day".

Just under 3,000 people acquired the hepatitis C virus from either blood transfusions between 1970 and 1991 or from blood product therapy while 78 acquired HIV.

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CONTAMINATE: It was primarily the haemophilia community that were infected when they used unchecked contaminated blood donated by prisoners and drug addicts in the US during the 1970s through to the 1990s.

according to the Penrose inquiry.

Mr Dymond added: "Extensive patient consultation was a cornerstone in reaching these

proposals; compare that with the macabre farce elaborated by health secretary Jane Ellison and her departmental cronies, when they set up, se-

lected and financed a reference group to collect feedback from patient groups, refused to publish the findings which they then rubbished in the

current consultation document as 'unrepresentative'.

"It may be a little premature to start whistling Scotland the Brave, as more needs to be done as negotiations continue to reach full redress, but the proposals set forward are a far more humane gesture than those being peddled in England by Jane Ellison, who seems to take untold pleasure in torturing the defenceless."

Mr Dymond's comments come almost exactly a year after David Cameron issued the first ever public apology by the British government about the scandal which dates back 40 years.

Campaigners had hoped it would pave the way to a fairer settlement after years of denial.

Apologising during prime minister's questions he announced a £25million compensation package and more to come following that May's election.

So far hopes of a swift resolution have disappointed, with a consultation delayed and still no sign of the extra payments – despite the health minister promising a £100m package in January.

Mr Dymond said: "The fact that it had taken so long and over 2,000 premature and needless deaths to reach that moment last year will surely astound and appal anyone with a shred of human decency.

"In those same statements, Mr Cameron made a series of pledges to the House of Commons and to those affected and infected by this most horrific of human tragedies. These sincere and binding pledges included paying a decent level of compensation in recompense for the levels of suffering and human grief to those wronged by the worst treatment disaster in the history of the NHS.

"But the full and sincere significance of an apology lies not only in the mere words expressed, though they may bring some degree of comfort to those wronged, but in the real acts and deeds which seek to recognise and redress in the fullest measure possible the devastation wreaked.

Continued on page 16

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Continued from page 15

"After waiting so many long years for some form of official recognition of, and apology for, over 2,000 deaths with thousands more infected with deadly viruses, caused at best by utter complacency and governmental/medical carelessness and at worst by deliberate malice and the cynical targeting of a small vulnerable community; campaigners hesitated whether to give Mr Cameron the benefit of a mountain of doubt accumulated over many shortened lifetimes; to give some credence to the sincerity of his apology and his promise to compensate decently, giving survivors, their families widows a stable financial future.

"And so day for day, one year on, how brutally disappointed they have been - yet again.

"After a year of inaction and mealy mouthed prevarication, the government have announced that every individual destroyed by the scandal will be far worse off."

A 12-week consultation finally began in January but with the apparent terms of the compensation package already confirmed and, in a move which further frustrates and irritates



sufferers, the money will come from NHS funds. They have long campaigned the money should not come out of existing allocations to an already overstretched health service.

Adds Mr Dymond: "Apologising sincerely, as any child will explain, requires taking responsibility and liability for those acts. The state is liable for the contaminated blood scandal because it happened. The NHS provided infected blood products which killed and maimed. It's direct causality; there's no room to fudge the issue.

"The government must pay for its misdeeds, even after the event.

"Pay up Cameron, you know full well this compensation is long overdue."

Mr Dymond's MP, Conservative politician for South Thanet Craig Mackinlay, added: "I feel for them. I really do. It needs solving, and there needs to be a pay-out so it's done.

"There is the issue, that you can argue the NHS was buying poor quality blood products, but some of the conditions hadn't even been discovered back then; it's a bit like saying I had a car crash back in the 1970s but there weren't any air bags. Because they hadn't invented them.

"But that doesn't change what it's done to people's lives. I want a settlement so they walk away happy. And it's been delayed for a very long time. But I'm fighting for them."

SQUARING THE CIRCLE...

STEVE Dymond's life has, in many ways, been defined by his haemophilia. In an article for KoS, he explains the impact on his life. This article was written in his hospital bed last weekend as he recovered from the latest medical setback caused through being given contaminated blood when he was younger.

MARCH 25 is a date scorched deep into my soul.

On this very day, my 15-year-old brother, Howard, (also a haemophiliac) died from an internal haemorrhage in hospital following routine surgery.

He was cremated on March 28. My 13th birthday.

That the dates on which Easter is celebrated this year recall so many memories and so much deep pain, only serves to throw into sharp relief the shallowness of governmental responses and false promises to the contaminated blood community, as Whitehall continues its stubborn refusal to atone for the sins it has visited on the most vulnerable.

The final lines of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting For Godot* would seem to paint with brutal honesty, and in its



RECOVERING: Broadstairs' Steve Dymond and his wife Su Gorman

kindest light, successive governments' engagement in seeming pointlessness and knock-about surrealistic farce whilst failing to deal respectfully with the justified claims of the community.

"We'll hang ourselves tomorrow... unless Godot comes."

"And if he comes?"

"We'll be saved."

But, of course, Godot never comes...

Contaminated NHS blood products poisoned me with hepatitis C - living for more than 30 years with the 'silent killer' has gifted me with cirrhosis, liver cancer and the

need for a transplant. But along this route come other sloughs of despond - passing out into your own vomited blood and uncontrolled internal bleeding.

It's all a far cry from Jane Ellison bleating about a "cure" and "I'd like to make you all well".

Sitting here on a bed in a central London hospital, my latest thoughts go towards a possible achievement of the impossibility of squaring the circle, of connecting my destiny and demise with my brother's and bleeding out the same Easter weekend so many years apart.



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was £5,690	now £1,125	ONLY ONE!	80%
was £1,549	now £750	ONLY ONE!	51%
was £1,499	now £695	ONLY ONE!	53%
was £1,434	now £845	ONLY ONE!	41%
was £1,790	now £695	ONLY ONE!	61%

Lounge & Dining Room Furniture

~~Gola Bergen 3 seater 3 drawer sideboard. Slight damage~~ **SOLD**

Content by Conran. Walnut coffee table

Skovby oiled oak large extending dining table & 4 chairs

Gola bergen Oval extending table & 4 chairs

Gola reproduction Mahogany pedestal dining table 4 chairs & 2 carvers

Corndell Tavistock glass door solid Ash display cabinet

Cirrus solid oak lamp table

was £1,259	now £199	ONLY ONE!	80%
was £499	now £175	ONLY ONE!	64%
was £3,500	now £1,195	ONLY ONE!	65%
was £2,505	now £1,195	ONLY ONE!	52%
was £3,840	now £1,875	ONLY ONE!	51%
was £885	now £350	ONLY ONE!	60%
was £462	now £85	ONLY ONE!	80%

Beds & Bedroom Furniture

Pocket 1000 2'6" shallow divan set

Nolte corner wardrobe system. Fantastic quality

Myers Leo 4'6" 2 drawer pocket sprung set

~~4'6" clearance mattress~~ **SOLD**

San Francisco Bay triple box white wardrobe

3' clearance mattress

San Francisco Bay dressing table

was £599	now £199	ONLY ONE!	65%
was £2,916	now £999	ONLY ONE!	65%
was £849	now £165	ONLY ONE!	80%
was £289	now £90	ONLY ONE!	68%
was £199	now £60	ONLY ONE!	68%
was £1,295	now £250	ONLY ONE!	80%
was £799	now £159	ONLY ONE!	80%



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Five years of painting a fresh start at the Turner

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

ALMOST precisely 10 years ago, it seemed the dreams of creating one of the nation's finest galleries in Margate were delivered such a significant blow many feared it would never come to fruition.

After years of build up and a highly publicised campaign to land designers for the project, a hugely ambitious vision for the future was drawn up.

Designed by architects Snohetta, from Sweden, and Britain's Spence Associates, it was originally going to cost £7 million.

Built into the harbour arm in Margate, it was a remarkable design and one which made international headlines. But by 2006, that cost had ballooned to an eye-watering £50 million.

For Kent County Council, which was spearheading the project and handling public money, breaking point was reached and the plug was pulled. With a global recession lurking around the corner, it cannot have been a decision anyone at the authority has ever regretted.

But while the doubters feared this would spell the end of Margate's brief glimpse into a more popular future, in its place, and set a few hundred yards back, came a more modest creation.

From the mind of architect David Chipperfield came the striking building; the rounded walls replaced by sharp, defined edges. It is now a firmly established part of the Margate skyline.

When the £17.4m building opened

in April 2011 the naysayers were silenced. And remain so. Because five years on and the visitor numbers have consistently exceeded expectations.

So much so, in fact, that when KoS pays a visit to the gleaming white building and asks whether expansion plans are in the offing everyone has a very well rehearsed political response ready.

"We've have had five fantastic years," says Turner director Victoria Pomrey as we sit in her modest office at the back end of the gallery building. It must command one of the finest views in the whole of Margate - looking directly along its coastline, the clarity of air which so intoxicated the artist JW Turner (he famously told one art critic "the skies over Thanet are the loveliest in all Europe") are clear to see.

"But we have to think about the future," she continues. "We're looking at a number of different options. It's about making sure we're here and still successful in the next 50 years not just five years. The impact so far been huge but it needs to remain important to Margate and to Kent."

Mike Hill is cabinet member for community services on Kent County Council. "We're looking at all the possibilities for the future," he says. "We work closely with the Turner team and are actively seeking to push on and help fuel the growth in the area further."

It is, however, an obvious conclusion. Others are doing it (the Tate St Ives being a good comparison) so why not here too?

After all, the one recurring complaint (and it is almost the only one) is that the gallery is too small. It's not quite 'blink and you miss it' but for a venue which packs such an almighty punch in terms of profile and marketing clout for Thanet and the county as a whole, it can all be over rather too quickly.

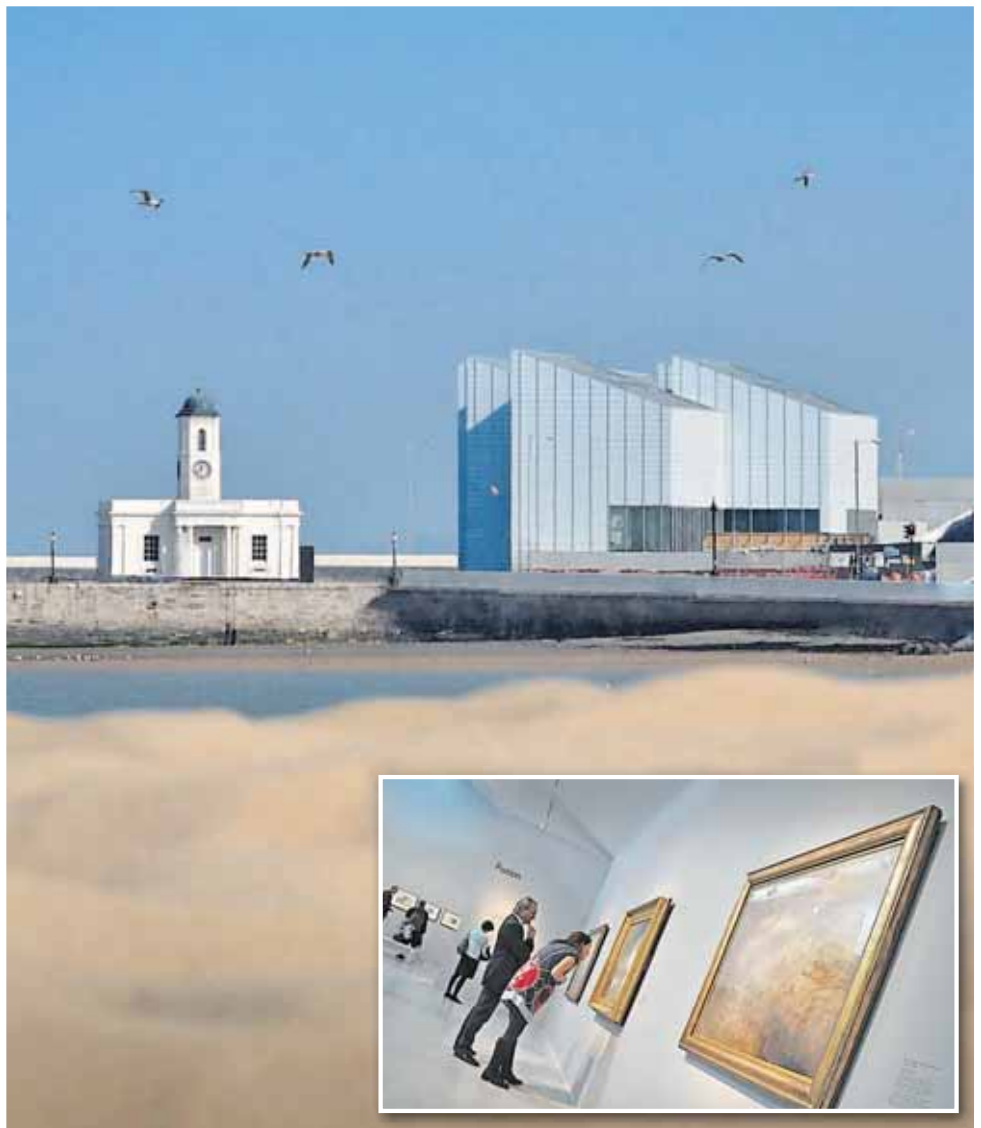
"It is a small gallery," Miss Pomrey admits. "We punch above our weight and I think people expect us to be vast like the Baltic, National Portrait Gallery or the Tate."

"Within the constraints of a limited KCC capital budget, this is quite a small footprint, but I hadn't imagined the impact we would have."

"We do struggle. At times this building is too small. When the exhibitions are in change over, then we have very little other space. If a visitor comes at that time then there is not much else to see."

"But then I had not expected us to be a national gallery based in Margate rather than a regional gallery."

"We have had a really significant impact and we want to sustain that."



BIRTHDAY: Five years on and the Turner Contemporary in Margate is now well established and successful

Funded significantly by both KCC - it puts £840,000 into its coffers each year - and the Arts Council (nearly £575,000 per annum), its model of free entry and as a reminder to the nation of Margate's charms (even if rather based in the past) has proved an intoxicating mix. Thanet District Council doesn't make a regular payment, but donated the land on which it is built.

So far 1.9 million people have come and visited it. A sizeable chunk of those - around six per cent - haven't visited a museum or art gallery before. Its outreach programmes and other community engagement has embraced some 100,000 people. Train firm Southeastern has reported a 30 per cent hike in ticket sales between London and Margate since it opened. Research suggests it is already responsible for ploughing £50m into the local economy and has helped pave the way for more than 70 new businesses in the area and the associated employment benefits.

Margate's Old Town has been transformed into something more resembling a miniature slice of that other successful north coast seaside town, Whitstable, with vintage stores nestling among cafes and small galleries.

Even neighbouring Cliftonville - an area which has long been one of not only the county's but nation's most deprived areas - has seen art shops popping up along its long high street. House prices are flickering into life, and the Down from London & West

donder who wants significant bang for the buck generated by selling their one-bed flat in Clapham, sees their money go a very long way here.

Yet walk through Margate town centre and you are still struck by an overpowering aroma of decline.

Many shop units still stand empty and even at its peak on a weekend afternoon, getting in and out of the town and finding a parking space (the town centre multi-storey is free on a Saturday) comes without delay or queue. They, of course, all hot-footed it to the ever-expanding Westwood Cross complex down the road in Broadstairs.

But ever since it opened, the words Turner Contemporary are almost immediately followed by the phrase 'catalyst for regeneration'. Along with the, pardon the cliché, rollercoaster ride of the reimagined Dreamland (the company operating it found itself in nearly £3m of debt by the end of its first year back in business) at the opposite end of the seafront, they are seen as the tickets back to riches for a town whose history is entwined with our changing holiday habits over the generations.

So is Turner delivering that regeneration and at a pace to satisfy? "In an economic recession," explains Miss Pomrey, "for a gallery to open and actually for parts of the Old Town to already be really flourishing just five years later is an incredible story."

"But it's about the social cohesion

that happens here in the gallery; that people who feel isolated in the communities through poor health or loneliness can use it. We have a choir who meet here - they just use the space - but there's an intergenerational group who work here, a studio group who work on programming. We are impacting on people's lives and making a difference to those communities."

"What's more there are a growing number of artists' spaces popping up in Margate and Cliftonville. It's going to take generations - change takes a long time. It's not a quick fix. Changing mindsets isn't quick."

"But look at Liverpool - it's taken at least 30 years to turn it around to where it is now. And some of the issues here are just as severe but without the investment."

"If Dreamland can thrive and flourish then it will help the future here. Margate is a magical place."

Clr Hill at KCC agrees: "The regeneration in Margate has been remarkable and there are so many green shoots around the area. Not least demonstrated by property prices rising. There are some places in Cliftonville where it's difficult to secure a house now, such is the demand, where not long ago you could hardly give them away."

"But it's not the end, there are more possibilities."

Certainly any thought that Mar-

Continued on page 20

Week ending March 27, 2016 **19**



DIRECTOR: Victoria Pomrey

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



EXHIBITS: Among the big attractions since it opened was Rodin's *The Kiss*

Continued from page 19

gate's streets would be paved with gold within such a short time frame were always going to be unrealistic. Politicians may often demand change swiftly, but one only needs to look down the M2 at Medway to see how long it takes to rebuild an area after it finds itself down on its luck. Only now are the towns delivering aspiration and opportunity following the closure, in 1984, of the dockyards there. It is hard to imagine such an ambitious project being given the green light in this continued era of austerity.

Cllr Hill describes the decision by KCC almost 20 years ago to embark on this project as "bold and brave" and Miss Pomrey is in agreement. "I think KCC was very ambitious in its thinking as to what cultural-led regeneration might achieve. "Once they appointed David Chipperfield – a star architect of his generation working internationally – then me, the team and the board of trustees had to set the bar extremely high in terms of the type of shows we have and the learning programme to match it." The Arts Council and Kent County Council have both been forced to re-

duce their funding packages over the years as a result of reductions in grants from central government. The buzz word now is all about sustainability. A word which was no doubt highly relevant when Stephen Sunnocks was appointed chairman of the charitable organisation which runs the Turner in December. He replaced John Kampfner, chief executive of the Creative Industries Federation, the national membership organisation for all the UK's arts, creative industries and cultural education, who stepped down after seven and a half years.

Mr Sunnocks has more than 20 years of retail experience under his belt, holding senior managerial roles at the likes of Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury's and, most notably, Gap. "Steve comes from a commercial financial background," explains Miss Pomrey. "What we are really focused on is fundraising – a key driver for the gallery since we opened. "He has a very different skill set and will help us to think more commercially. But also just to get us thinking in a different way about running a cultural venue and how you might monetise that.

"I don't think there has to be a clash between commercial and creative. Sometimes the language becomes a barrier, but I see that the more money I have, the more I can do with the gallery. So it's about working to address some of these big issues." The free admission is set to stay for now but, like the expansion plans, is under regular review. It would be easy to undermine the Turner - to say it, along with Dreamland's vintage amusement park just down the road, are aimed so fairly and squarely at the middle class they fail to deliver for the local people.



LANDMARK: The original design was ditched, but what emerged is striking



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REVITALISED: Margate's Old Town is alive once more

But it would be missing the key element of regeneration. And that is that new people and new wealth come into the area to deliver the cash injection required to not only plant those green shoots of recovery but, ultimately, to allow them to bloom too.

It's about bringing pride back to a town, and regardless of whether you use the gallery or not, it is something which Margate, Thanet and Kent as a whole can be very proud of.

Margate was without that for too many years and it suffered as a result. The beach is a delight, but it needed something else desperately.

Yes, it needs subsidy and that is sometimes a difficult argument to make given the cuts to so many essential services, and the deprivation suffered by many so near by, but the arts always do. And if you're offering a free attraction, someone has to pick up the tab. But it drives visitors and visitors spend money and generate interest in the area. The investment it requires delivers significant returns above and beyond that spend.

The truth is the Turner has made a significant impact. But as all involved in it would agree, there is still a very long way to go. So far, so good.

DREAMLAND RETURNS HOPING FOR BUMPER SEASON



DREAMLAND roars back into life this weekend after its winter hiatus knowing that it needs to deliver on the crowds this year to banish all the negativity caused by last year's financial headaches.

In December it was revealed that Sands Heritage, the company which manages the park, was running at a worrying deficit of £2.9million.

That forced it to then seek a company voluntary agreement (CVA) with its creditors to repay its debts over a longer period.

But, more damaging, was the blow it delivered to a project which promised to supplement what had been achieved with the Turner Contemporary and pull yet more

punters into Margate and the facilities for them to spend a day – or longer – here.

Dreamland's initial start certainly underwhelmed many. Trading on a vintage theme, failure to have the star attraction – the Scenic Railway – ready for the opening summer cost it dearly.

Re-opening at Christmas in the guise of the Frosted Fairground was a sound move, but it will be hoping to gather some momentum this Easter which will, in turn, help it gather speed over the coming months.

Certainly its line-up of rides looks more impressive for the 2016 season. As mentioned on our news pages, a number of new rides – in-

cluding the gut-spinning Enterprise – will be in place and that will make a big difference.

In addition, it confirmed this week a discounted entrance fee for visitors between 6pm and 9pm. The twilight ticket should help swell crowds.

Dreamland's success is a key part in pushing on from what the Turner has achieved.

Its funding is a very different kettle of the proverbial fish, but its need to be self-sustaining is increasingly essential.

A good Easter and summer season could not only put Dreamland back on track, but give the continued revival of Margate an almighty boot up the backside.



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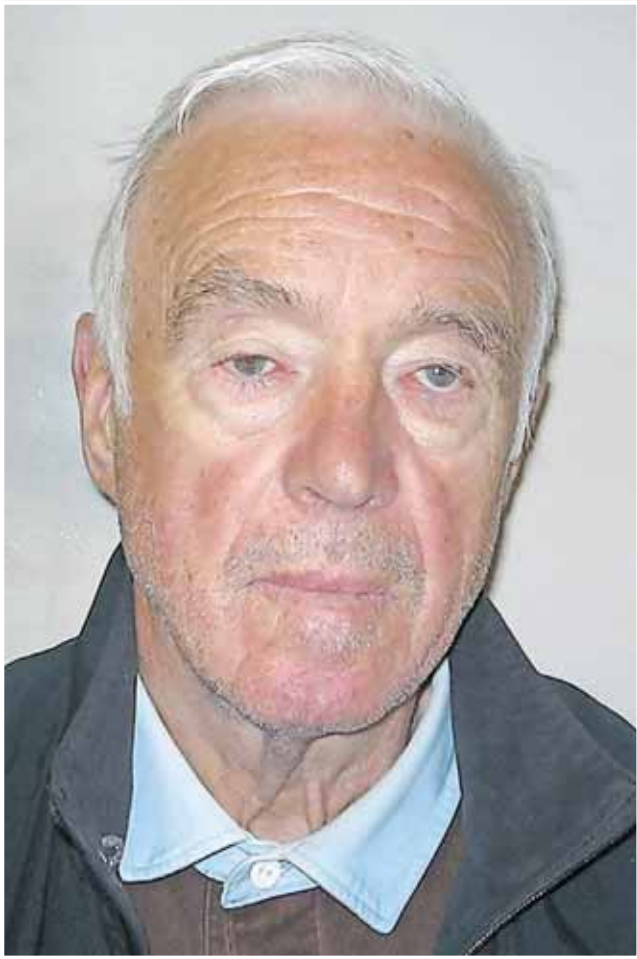
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GUILTY: Brian Reader admitted his role in the daring burglary

Mastermind of raid

Struggling with serious ill health, Brian Reader was this week

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

HATTON Garden mastermind Brian 'the guv'nor' Reader has been sentenced to six years and three months in jail for his role in the £14 million jewellery raid.

The 77-year-old – the oldest member of the gang – suffered a stroke in Belmarsh Prison following what was the biggest burglary in English history.

Appearing via video link at Woolwich Crown Court, Reader, who the court was told now uses a walking frame, was sentenced to six years and three months by Judge Christopher Kinch QC.

Reader, of Dartford Road, Dartford, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary last September.

Judge Kinch said he took into account the fact that Reader is "seriously unwell" and needs daily assistance with a number of routine tasks.

He said Reader has a range of medical problems which are "potentially very serious indeed", but added: "I'm satisfied that you were rightly described as one of the ringleaders and involved in regular meetings."

The judge pointed out that while Reader was not present on the second night of the heist, he was there the first night and during "at least one dry run".



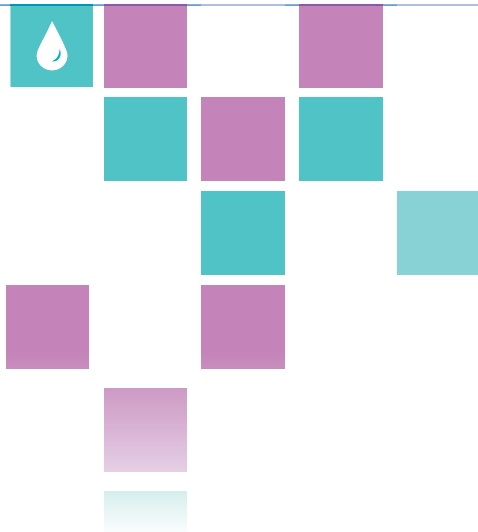
The court heard about Reader's ill health – how he has suffered from a number of strokes, prostate cancer, loss of hearing, disruption to his vision, and now requires daily assistance with tasks like showering.

Reader's sentencing was delayed after he suffered a stroke in Belmarsh

Prison and a previous court hearing was told he "may only have months to live".

Appearing on screens in the court from Belmarsh, the pensioner looked frail, and was wearing a short-sleeved T-shirt and glasses.

His previous convictions go back



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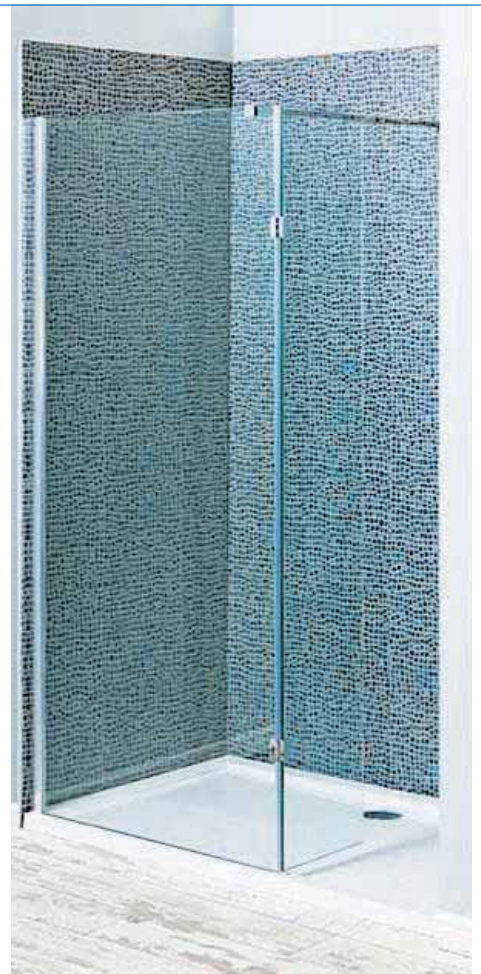
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is sent down

given jail term for role in £14m crime



He remained on the inside of the conspiracy, the judge said.

The Hatton Garden gang carried out the "sophisticated" and meticulously planned break-in over the Easter weekend last year.

They ransacked 73 boxes at Hatton Garden Safe Deposit after using a drill to bore a hole into the vault wall.

Valuables worth up to £14 million, including gold, diamonds and sapphires, were taken.

Two-thirds of them remain unrecovered.

Another thief, known only as Basil, remains at large. He was instrumental in helping the gang get into the vault in the heart of London's diamond district.

Ringleaders John "Kenny" Collins, 75, of Bletsoe Walk, Islington, north London; Daniel Jones, 61, of Park Avenue, Enfield, north London; Terry Perkins, 67, of Heene Road, Enfield, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit burglary last September.

Collins, Jones and Perkins were each given a seven-year prison term.

Carl Wood, 59, of Elderbek Close, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, and William Lincoln, 60, of Winkley Street, Bethnal Green, east London, were found guilty of the same offence and one count of conspiracy to conceal, convert or transfer criminal property, after trial.

Lincoln was also given a seven-year sentence, and Wood was jailed for six

more than 60 years, including a burglary conviction in 1950.

The judge said there was "a degree of irony" in the way Reader was known as "the master", but said he was satisfied that Reader was still accepted in the "inner circle" despite not being there on the second night.



HOLE: Gang drilled through thick reinforced walls last Easter to reach the security boxes

years. Plumber Hugh Doyle, 49, of Riverside Gardens, Enfield, was found guilty of concealing, converting or transferring criminal property between January 1 and May 19 last year.

He was jailed for 21 months, suspended for two years.

Perkins's daughter Terri Robinson, 36, of Sterling Road, Enfield, previously pleaded guilty to concealing, converting or transferring criminal

property, alongside her brother-in-law Brenn Walters, 44, who is also known as Ben Perkins.

Robinson and Walters each received sentences of 18 months suspended for two years.

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And over this long bank holiday weekend, crowds are set to flock to see them carpet the countryside.

A traditional sign of the arrival of spring, according to the charity the Woodland Trust, sightings of bluebells have burst into life earlier than normal this year.

Dr Kate Lewthwaite, the trust's citizen science manager, said: "Records which trace spring's arrival date back several centuries, but in the last 30 years we have seen a marked advance in the appearance of many spring signs. This year's particularly mild weather seems to have had a significant effect."

"Records added by the public to our Nature's Calendar help us monitor these changes, but equally important is to protect and increase our wildlife habitats to help species adapt."

This time last year, the trust had received just 22 bluebell sightings across the UK – this year over 60 locations have reported them blooming.

Matthew Oates, a naturalist for the National Trust, explains: "Bluebells start to grow in January with a sole purpose to flower before other woodland plants."

"However, timing of flowering depends on elevation, latitude, aspect, soils, geology and local climate conditions – they depend on warm ground conditions to help them grow."

"The true beauty of our bluebells – the intense blue colour, the delicate scent, the view – makes them an essential and special element to our springtime experience."

Over half the global population of bluebells flower on UK shores, and they prove a big attraction where they do.

One of the most popular sites is on the A259 which runs between Ashford and Faversham. Around Challock the forest floor is transformed into a vibrant blue.

But the bluebells we see in so many spots are probably not the native version – many of them are a Spanish variant.

The native bluebell species can be identified by its delicate scent, intense blue colour and flowers that droop down like a bell along one side of the stem. The Spanish variety

is a more pale blue colour. Bluebells usually burst into flower between April and May, but as they depend on warm ground temperatures to help them grow, can often appear earlier in the year.

They struggle to flourish in gardens and are usually found on areas of ancient woodland.

The National Trust has provided a

list of its properties where visitors can enjoy the bluebells.

They include Emmetts Garden in Ide Hill, near Sevenoaks; Ightham Mote, near Sevenoaks; and Sissinghurst Castle gardens near Cranbrook.

Sissinghurst Castle's senior ranger Peter Dear comments: "We're starting to see an increase of bluebells in

an area of woodland used as swine pasture over 200 years ago.

"This is exciting for us as once bluebells disappear it can take a long time for them to return. One of the best things about our bluebells is the smell – there are around 26 different smells that make up the aroma of a bluebell, including scents of lychee and lemon."



VENUES: The National Trust's Emmetts Gardens, Sissinghurst Castle and Ightham Mote

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ONLY ONE! 55%

Camden 2 drawer bedside chest

mrrp £500 now £100

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Stratford two door wardrobe by Lawrence Walsh

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Stratford two door wardrobe with additional shelf unit

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How to choose the best lawnmower for you garden



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Homes & Gardens

Making great choices for the spring

Find out more on how to carry out some DIY in your home and the plants which thrive in your spring garden

WELCOME to our latest Homes and Gardens feature.

After what seemed like a very long winter, spring has finally arrived and with it comes some warmer weather and much brighter evenings and mornings.

So what better time for keen gardeners to make their way outside and indulge in their hobby?

Many people enjoy the chance to get outside, and find that gardening provides them with a great way to relax and unwind.

With the long Easter weekend meaning that many people have an extra day off on Monday, there is also the opportunity to do some DIY jobs around the home, or make a start on the renovations that you may have been putting off.

In this edition, we will be giving you

advice on the best plants for your garden this spring, which will thrive at this time of year.

Turn over to pages 32 and 33 to find out more.

We'll also be telling you which plants in your garden are good enough to eat.

Turn to page 29 for further details about this.

You can also find out which lawnmower to use to get the best results in your garden on page 30.

We'll also be looking at ways that you can carry out some DIY over the long weekend – such as wallpapering and painting different rooms – on pages 34 and 35.

You can find out more on how to renovate your home in a way that's eco-friendly on page 36.

We hope that you enjoy this supplement and have a good long weekend.



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Turn your garden plants into tasty meal ingredients

By Hannah Stephenson

editorial@kosmediia.co.uk

SOME of the plants grown in your garden can be turned into a delicious ingredient in your meals.

You could plant fruit to include in sweet dishes such as pies and crumbles, or even repurpose weeds in your garden such as nettles.

Here are a few of the things that are good enough to eat.

Growing Chillies

Chillies can be trained easily into neat bushy plants which will give you enough fruits to keep you going for some time and deserve a place on the patio.

Start them off indoors by sowing two seeds into a 9cm pot and placing it on a heated propagator or warm windowsill, where you can maintain a constant temperature of 20C.

If both seeds germinate, remove the weaker one and gradually reduce the temperature to a minimum of 14C at night. When the plant fills its space, pot it on into a two-litre pot of multipurpose compost and in June, place it in its final resting place in a five-litre pot in a sheltered spot on the patio.

When the plant is 20cm high, pinch out the growing tip to encourage bushiness. Water frequently on hot days during the summer and feed with a tomato fertiliser when the fruits start to form.

They're ready for picking when they are ripe but the skin is still smooth.

Chillies will store well for a couple of weeks in the fridge or longer in the freezer.

Rhubarb

Rhubarb isn't technically a fruit, as it's the stems we eat, but it has now been lumped into that category because we generally have it in puddings - pies and crumbles, fools and jams.

Whatever your opinion on its category, this is a plant that is really easy to grow even if you

just want a few stems.

Plant dormant crowns in late autumn or early spring in heavy soil with plenty of added organic matter, preferably in full sun so the stems will become redder and sweeter.

Plants should be 3ft apart. Remove any flowering stems which appear in summer, cutting them out as close to the base as you can, then remove dead leaves when the foliage dies down in autumn, adding general-purpose fertiliser to the soil and mulching liberally.

If you want to force rhubarb for earlier stems, cover a well-established crown with a rhubarb forcing pot or upturned dustbin in mid January or early February and cover the ground around it with straw for insulation.

A few weeks later, long stems with pale leaves should appear and they can be harvested until the end of March. Then uncover the plant to let it develop naturally and don't force the same crown every year.

Weeds

Before you go throwing those dandelions, nettles and ground elder into the compost bin, think again - because weeds can miraculously be turned into gourmet veg.

If you boil nettles, their sting instantly disappears and they can be added to soups and quiches.

Cover dandelions with a bucket a couple of weeks before harvesting them for mild-tasting pale leaves that are great in salads, or lightly steam some leaves of ground elder - one of the hardest perennial weeds to eradicate - and serve them with a knob of butter.

Other weeds, including Shepherd's Purse, has deliciously spicy leaves similar to those of watercress, while pineapple weed gives a taste of the tropical, which goes well in yoghurt dips or sprinkled on salads.

You may not have them all in your garden, but it shouldn't take much foraging to find a few to take to the dinner table.



TASTY: Some of the plants grown in your garden can be turned into a delicious ingredient in your meals



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Find out lowdown on lawnmowers

By Hannah Stephenson
editorial@kosmediia.co.uk

THERE are so many lawnmowers on the market these days - rotary and cylinder, corded electric, cordless petrol, battery-powered and state-of-the-art robotic types. But which one is right for your budget, and right for your lawn?

Lawnmower prices range from under £100 to thousands for elaborate sit-on types, but expect to pay at least a few hundred if you have a fair sized lawn and want something that will last.

Petrol, corded electric or battery are the main options and each has its own pros and cons.

In our environmentally-conscious world, battery-powered options - once dismissed by lawn lovers because of the batteries' dubious staying power and need to replace them after a winter in storage - have become more sophisticated as Lithium-ion batteries don't lose power

CHOOSE:

There are a variety of lawnmowers



like the old ones.

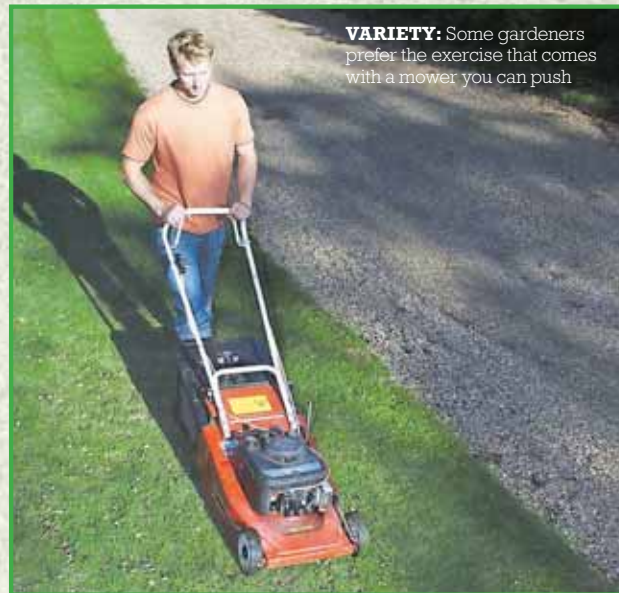
In the last 12 months, sales of cordless electric lawn mowers at Homebase have increased by more than 700 per cent compared with the previous year.

Bosch stopped manufacturing petrol mowers in 2010 to go eco-friendly and has long been extolling the virtues of Lithium-ion

batteries which, it claims, perform as petrol equivalents but with low noise, low vibrations and savings on running costs.

Battery-operated mowers are generally lighter machines, don't pump out carbon monoxide and are much quieter than their petrol counterparts. You don't have to worry about a ca-


VARIETY: Some gardeners prefer the exercise that comes with a mower you can push



ble or expend energy pulling a cord to start them either, as they start at the touch of a button.

Other than following battery

care instructions and annually sharpening the blades, cordless mowers need no other kind of maintenance.




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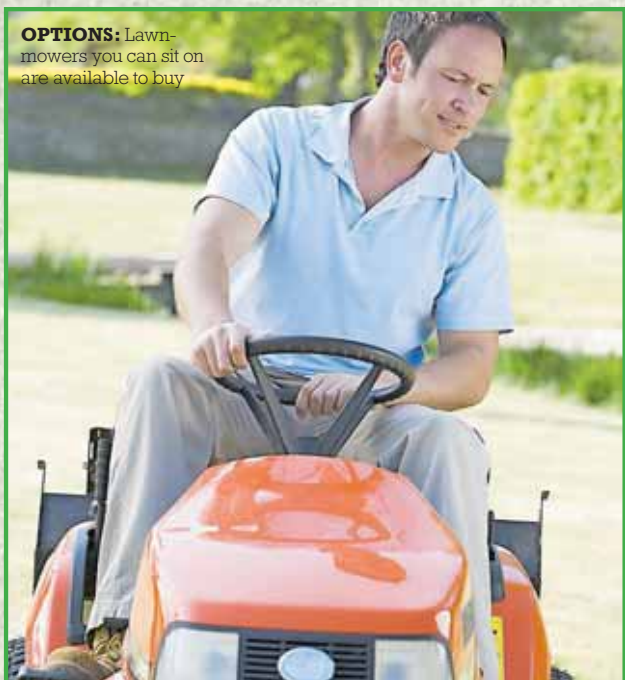
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OPTIONS: Lawn-mowers you can sit on are available to buy



Here are some of the advantages and disadvantages.

BATTERY POWER

The Bosch Rotak 43 LI Ergoflex cordless lawnmower can give an

excellent cut for a good 40 minutes on one charge, although reviewers have found that the rear roller doesn't noticeably stripe the lawn. It has a charge time of 140 minutes.

It is £469.99 and can be purchased at www.shop.bosch-doit.com.

The new EGO Power+ lawnmower whispers in at 83 decibels, quieter than a food blender. On an average lawn on flat ground, the battery would last around 45 minutes and can recharge in 30.

It is £499 and available from www.egopowerplus.co.uk.

The disadvantages of battery mowers are that you have to remember to recharge the batteries and they won't stripe your lawn as effectively as a heavier machine.

PETROL POWER

Petrol-driven motors may be better for bigger lawns and where you need plenty of power on slopes or uneven surfaces. There are push and self-propelled varieties, having throttle control which eases the pushing ability of the user.

Petrol mowers give a good striped effect as they are heavier and, although they need servicing, it could be argued that a well-maintained, good quality petrol mower will outlast most electric ones. The Mountfield

SP454 self-propelled petrol lawnmower is a great option for lawns up to 1,500m squared.

Users also won't encounter the cumbersome cables of electric models and the need for safety cut-out plugs.

The price is £304, available from B&Q (www.diy.com).

ELECTRIC POWER

A corded electric mower is fine for a smaller suburban garden, if you're not bothered about keeping the cable out of the way of the blades.

Electric 'hover' mowers are the cheapest, but can produce a disappointing finish, often require a spanner to adjust the mowing height and don't always collect grass efficiently.

Ultimately, your choice should depend on your lawn type and size. If you have a small or medium-sized lawn, a battery-operated mower or light electric type should be fine for your needs.

For example, the Bosch 32R Corded Lawnmower which is priced at £78.92 and available from Homebase (www.homebase.co.uk) is lightweight and perfect for smaller lawns.

CYLINDER OR ROTARY

So, cylinder or rotary? Cylinder

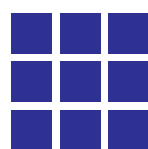
mowers are for the lawn perfectionist who wants a finer cut and bowling green finish. They are ideal for flat lawns and short grass, but struggle with long or wet grass. If you want the exercise, opt for a push variety. If you don't, self-propelled is the way to go.

Rotary mowers are better all-rounders, cut better in wet or long grass and cope well with uneven, bumpy surfaces. Their blades can be easily changed to boot. Try the Mac Allister 1300W Rotary Lawnmower - £84 from B&Q (www.diy.com) - a great all-rounder for gardens of a good size.

NEW ALTERNATIVES

Lazy gardeners might prefer to sink a gin and tonic on the patio while watching the lawn being mown by a robotic device such as Robomow, which starts at an eye-popping £1,199 for the RC304, increasing to £2,799 for the upgraded RS635 model, available from www.robomow.com.

But some gardeners may relish the exercise that goes with a mower they can push, and the pleasure of seeing the well-groomed green carpet they've created at the end of their work-out.



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Selecting the very best of the bunch

By Hannah Stephenson
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Easter holiday will provide many keen gardeners with the chance to partake in their hobby.

Why not take the opportunity to add some new plants to your garden?

There are a variety different ones to choose from, many of which could help add a splash of colour to your outdoor space.

Here are a few of the different plants you might want to invest in this Easter.

Euphorbia (spurge)

The zingy acid yellow bracts of euphorbias contrast brilliantly with other plants to ensure an eye-catching display from spring onwards.

The bracts also come in warm shades of red, purple, orange and brown.

Most herbaceous euphorbias like well-drained, light soils in full sun, or moist, micro-organism-rich soils in light, dappled shade.

FLOWERS: Hyacinths produce some highly fragrant bulbs



It's an incredibly varied group which includes annuals, biennials and semi-evergreen perennials, so there's plenty of choice.

Good varieties include the perennial *E. polychrome*, a sun-loving yellow type which flowers from mid-spring, and *E. griffithii* Fireglow, which is ideal for

moist, light shade. Wear gloves when handling the plants because all euphorbias exude a milky sap which irritates the skin.

Hyacinth

These highly fragrant bulbs producing showy spikes of blooms in shades predominantly of purple, pink and white, are



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GORGEOUS: Camellias produce some blousy blooms in the spring

particularly effective in containers by the patio door, so when you venture outside on spring days you'll immediately catch a waft of their heady scent.

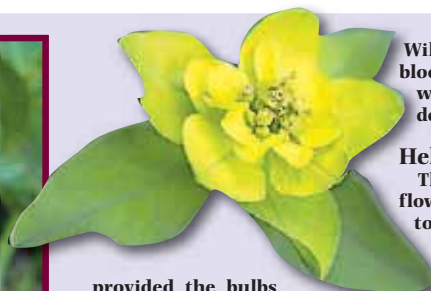
They look good in single colours in containers and are less likely to flop outside than they

are indoors.

You can't beat *Hyacinthus orientalis* for fragrance – good varieties include Blue Jacket and Carnegie White, but you can get many other colours including primrose yellow and apricot orange.

Either plant them on their own, 2-3cm apart, or space them out for room for other plants between.

If you want a mass effect, plant smaller-grade bulbs densely, just 1cm apart. Hyacinths can be grown in pots of any depth,



Williams, which bears pale pink blooms, and C. Leonard Messel, which has bright pink, semi double flowers.

Helleborus

Their fragile-looking nodding flowers give a touch of elegance to the spring garden, brightening up beds and borders in a range of colours from pure white through to deep purple, pink, cream, yellow, and red flowers.

These graceful perennials like damp, shady spots in the garden and look fantastic planted in borders with snowdrops, erythronium, primula, pulmonaria and tiarella.

The most popular helleborus is *H. orientalis* and its colourful hybrids.

They flower around the period of Lent, and are often known as Lenten hellebores or Lenten roses. They are ideal for bringing early colour to shady herbaceous borders and areas between deciduous shrubs and under trees.

Plant them in heavy, rich, limey soil that won't dry out in summer months.

Their leaves die down in June or July, after which the plants should be kept cool and shaded until they begin to grow again in early spring.

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Five DIY ideas to be tried out at home

By Julia Gray

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

If you have some spare time, why not use it to do some DIY around the house?

With busy working schedules it can be hard to find the time to freshen up the interior of our homes.

But with a Bank Holiday coming up, this could be the perfect time to improve your rooms and floors.

Here are five different DIY ideas that you can try out.

1. Prep a room

A long weekend should be more than enough time to repaint a room, but when there's prep involved, it can take much longer than you think.

If you want to paint walls that were wallpapered, it's common to discover all kinds of problems once the wallpaper is removed, including damp and blown plaster. Filling and sanding can go a long way to improving less-than-perfect walls, but only if they're



not too bad.

For some walls, only replastering will do and sometimes it's

necessary to remove the plaster and start again, doing a water-proof render first if the brick-

work is damp.

When painting newly plastered walls, remember to seal

the plaster before applying emulsion.

A popular way to do this is with watered-down emulsion, although you can also use No Nonsense Trade Bare Plaster Paint - £16.79 for 10ltr, available from Screwfix - which is less drippy.

2. Paint a room

If you've already done the prep, or there's not much prep to do, a long weekend is plenty of time to paint a room, although it does depend on whether you're painting every surface or just some of them.

If you want to paint over a dark wall colour with a paler one, you'll probably save time and effort by using a basecoat emulsion before the topcoat emulsion.

Basecoats are white and one of their main benefits is that they cover strong colours in fewer coats than standard emulsions.

Some emulsions cover better than others - as a general rule, the cheapest ones don't cover well, so while you don't need to

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spend a lot to get a good paint, budget ranges can be a false economy.

3. Wallpaper a room

Wallpapering isn't the easiest DIY job, but once you've mastered it, it's a good way to transform a room with colour and/or pattern.

If the walls aren't in the best condition, wallpaper should help to disguise it - textured wallpapers are ideal, but ones with a sheen should be avoided. You can also, of course, use lining paper on walls to improve their appearance without replastering.

To make a statement, do a

wallpaper feature wall and paint the other walls a matching, tonal or contrasting colour.

4. Sand floorboards

Hiring an industrial floor sander and an edger - used for sanding around the edges of the room - isn't the most relaxing way to spend a weekend, but you can create a stunning new floor by turning tatty old floorboards into beautiful sanded and varnished ones.

It's hot, hard and dusty work though, and sanders aren't the easiest machines to use.

For a quicker way to transform floorboards, you could paint them.

Providing the boards aren't too rough, you can sand them with a hand sander - once they're cleaned and primed, you're ready to paint. Water-based floor paints dry quickly and so are ideal if you need to use the room again soon, although you'll have to do several coats of white to avoid a patchy finish.

5. Freshen-up woodwork

Oil-based white wood paints tend to yellow over time, sometimes in no time at all in rooms with little or no natural light.

For woodwork that stays white, use water-based versions, which are mostly available in satin and eggshell finishes.

Like floor paints, white water-based wood paints don't cover particularly well (compared to oil-based ones), but because the paint dries quickly, you can do several coats in a day or two - other colours usually cover in two coats.

Old oil-based wood paints tend to need a sand to take the gloss off them. Painting them with a good wood primer-undercoat also makes the surface more matt and helps subsequent coats of paint adhere better.



DIY: Ideas include painting a room and sanding floorboards

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Eco-friendly approach to renovation

If you are planning to renovate your house in the near future, there are a number of things to consider if you want to be environmentally-friendly. From keeping recyclables separate to other waste to purchasing some eco-emulsion paint, there are many factors to consider. **Julia Gray** shares some of her top tips on how to renovate your home in an eco-friendly way

When renovating, it's tempting to rip everything out and start again, but there may be things you can keep, upcycle or get a professional to restore. In period properties especially, original features - even if they're not in perfect condition - usually add value and character. Filler, sandpaper and paint can transform all sorts of things that seem beyond repair - it's often simply a case of putting in the time and making the effort.

When you have to buy things for your home, how about something someone else no longer wants? Websites like eBay and Freecycle are full of pre-owned items that have lots of life left in them, whether you're looking for fireplaces, floorboards,



baths, basins, or kitchen units and appliances - the list is endless.

Many of us consider food miles when doing our weekly shop, but perhaps not where the products we use to renovate

our homes come from. This may depend on your budget - for example, slate or stone from Brazil or India might be cheaper than British versions, but it's come a lot further and may have other ethical and environmen-

tal negatives associated with its production.

If you're doing major building work, you'll need a skip, but it's easy for recyclables to get chucked in with the rubbish. In my experience, tradespeople rarely separate recyclables from non-recyclables, so if you want to make your build more environmentally friendly, you'll need to police the skip (and any rubbish bags) and extract anything that should be in the recycling bin. Local authority tips (and doorstep collections) take all sorts of things now - some even accept paint, which should never be poured down the plughole to dispose of. Another option is Community Re-Paint, which takes leftover paint for charities and voluntary and community groups to use - visit [\[paint.org.uk\]\(http://www.paint.org.uk\) to find out more.](http://www.communityre-</p>
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If you're looking for eco emulsion paint, there are plenty of specialist brands. For example, Naturepaint - from £3.98 for a tester, available from B&Q - is a powdered paint made in Cornwall using locally sourced ingredients, that you mix with water before use. For wood and metal, water-based paints contain fewer harmful VOCs (volatile organic compounds) than solvent-based ones. The former have disadvantages - they're rarely as hard wearing as solvent-based alternatives and you have to do several coats of white to get even coverage - but they also have big advantages. They dry quickly, are easier to remove from your skin and fabrics than solvent-based paints, and whites don't yellow, whereas most solvent-based ones do.



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Why Chunky is just the tip of an animal cruelty iceberg in county

According to figures released by the animal welfare charity the RSPCA this week, Kent is fifth on the list for reported cases of mistreating animals. We visit its centre near Maidstone to find out what's going on...

By Simon Allin

simon.allin@archant.co.uk

FIGURES from the RSPCA show that Kent had the fifth-highest number of animal cruelty complaints investigated in 2015.

With 5,304 recorded by the animal welfare charity, it put us below only Greater London, West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and West Midlands.

Also featured on the worst ten counties list were Lancashire, Essex, South Yorkshire, Merseyside and Lincolnshire.

And the RSPCA admits the strain of responding to the calls and then having to care for the animals is putting it under increasing pressure.

Just last year, the county was left stunned by the distressing case of Chunky the chihuahua.

He made national headlines after youths in Margate stole him from his owner's home and then subjected him to an horrific experience during which he was force fed drugs, kicked and punched, his neck broken and then set on fire before being dumped, left for dead, at a rubbish tip in Manston Road.

And although all cases are not as traumatic, it is part of a disturbing trend.

Nationally dogs, given their popularity, are the most persecuted pet, accounting for 57 per cent of the complaints investigated by the charity in 2015.

Rosie Russon is an RSPCA inspector based at its Leybourne Animal Centre, which cares for and rehomes unwanted or abused animals.

"I can't explain why Kent is so high up the list at all," she told KoS. "We have quite a lot of deprived areas where you might expect some cases to focus on – but so have all the other areas of the country."

The abuse of animals is widespread, occurring all over Kent. It could be that vets bills are higher in the south east and I don't think that helps the situation.

"Disturbingly, the situation seems to be getting worse, with serious cases of animal cruelty being investigat-

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk

DELPHINE... A HAPPY ENDING

DELPHINE the springer spaniel was dumped in a remote lane in Maidstone earlier this year.

The six-year-old dog, who was blind, was tied to a pallet of bricks and left for dead.

She was suffering from cataracts and ear infections, which subsequently received specialist veterinary treatment thanks to donations from members of the public.

Delphine was clearly traumatised by her experience and was unresponsive when she first arrived at RSPCA Leybourne, but she gradually began to regain confidence thanks to the care of the staff.

Although it proved impossible to restore Delphine's sight, her story has a happy ending.

She was rehomed with a couple from Wokingham in Berkshire, John and Ann Hopkins, who were moved by her plight after reading about it on Facebook.

They made regular trips to Leybourne to allow Delphine to get to know them before they took her home.



Mr Hopkins said: "It is incredible how quickly she has learned to trust us. When we met her for the first time she was pacing around and when we touched her she flinched. She was extremely nervous."

"Delphine has gradually learned to relax with us. Her little tail never stops wagging now."

The couple use voice commands to warn blind Delphine if there is a step up or down and they have put down mats to signal when

she is going into different parts of the house.

"She really is part of the family," Mr Hopkins added. "We are so lucky to have her. I will never understand how anyone could part with her."

ed more frequently by the charity."

"There are more cases and more serious neglect that has been intentional, like Chunky," the inspector added. "Deliberate acts of cruelty are on the rise. Beatings are a daily occurrence."

"Thankfully, we are getting more evidence because of mobile phones which allows evidence to be captured, which allows us to progress with these cases further."

Chunky's plight led to a high-profile campaign calling for a national animal cruelty register aimed at preventing offenders from owning animals for the rest of their lives.

The petition has already attracted almost 500,000 signatures, but despite this widespread public support, the RSPCA remains unsure whether a register would be an effective measure.

Inspector Russon said: "The reality is we need to go out and educate people, because people need to understand what is involved when they take on a pet in the first place."

"They need to consider whether they can provide for an animal before they take it on."

Catherine Peerless, a spokeswoman for the RSPCA, added: "When disqualification orders are given, that is a very good deterrent."

"They are determined by a magistrate and can apply to all animals or particular types of animals."

"The majority of people prosecuted end up with some form of disqualification."

Animal care assistant Simon McArdle, who works at the RSPCA centre in Leybourne, said fads can also lead to a rise in the number of animals being dealt with by the centre.

North & West



CRUEL: Chihuahua Chunky, above, after he was rescued from his horrific ordeal, and as he is today, right. One RSPCA inspector described it as the worst case he had ever encountered.



RESCUED: Delphine was abandoned and left for dead in Maidstone, left, but is now recovered, above, and enjoying life with a family who heard of her plight via Facebook

"There was a dramatic rise in the number of chihuahuas because they were being sold as 'handbag dogs,'" he explains, "but they are not in fashion any more."

"The result is when the fad goes away we have a surplus of dogs that no-one wants any more, which is a real shame."

As the number of cases being referred to the centre rises, they are putting increasing pressure on the charity's resources.

"We might have 20 dogs come into our care as a result of one investigation," says Catherine Peerless.

"And until there is a court order that allows us to re-home them we keep them here."

She added that some have to be placed with private boarders, who charge a flat rate, until a suitable family can be found for the animals.

And that is a cost the charity has to absorb.

"We are always busy, we have people coming in on a daily basis but it takes longer to find the right home for the most difficult dogs," Simon McArdle at the centre explains.

"There is always a steady of interest, but we always need more because we always have animals coming in."

Fortunately, with the right kind of care and attention, many of the dogs that are rescued can be rehabilitated and go on to live happier lives with new owners.

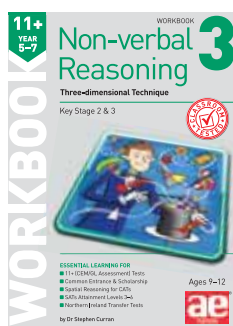
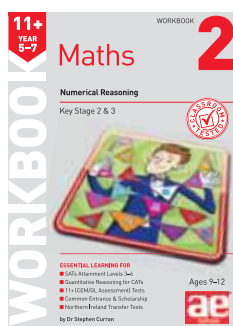
"The key things are patience and time," Mr McArdle added.

"The animals let us know what they are happy doing or not doing. It just involves having that patience to make them feel safe and secure."

Week ending March 27, 2016 39



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Seafront development begins

After years of discussions and hold-ups, work is now pushing ahead to restore the former Rotunda site in Folkestone to play a major new role in regenerating the town. **Tom Pyman** took a trip to see it

THE much-anticipated regeneration of Folkestone seafront will kick off this year, it has been confirmed.

The once-thriving seaside strip was ingrained in Kent's history as thousands regularly flocked to enjoy the Rotunda funfair, amusement arcades and regular Sunday market.

But after being demolished over a decade ago, the site has been left desolate ever since.

And plans drawn up to revitalise the area have been dogged over the years as the recession slammed the brakes on pushing forward with developments.

For Folkestone, which has also seen its once booming cross-Channel ferry services long since haul anchor from its harbour, the site ended up being an eyesore rather than the crowd-puller it once was.

In addition, the quality of the seafront environment was downgraded by the redundant remnants of its past and risk of flooding arguable made it a place to avoid, rather than enjoy.

Now though, the wheels are in motion to bring the seafront back to life, as thousands of homes and jobs are to be created in a much-needed boost to the local economy.

As well as houses, leisure facilities including a sea sports centre, restaurants, shops, bars and public gardens will be created, while sea defences will be reinforced to reduce the previous threat of flooding.

Proposals were approved by Shepway District Council back in 2013, but a developer needed to be appointed before the plans could accelerate.

Preparation work has been carried out and it has now been decided market conditions are suitable to begin, with the Folkestone Harbour Company (FHC) appointing David Crump to lead planning and delivery of the project.

Mr Crump was formerly operational director at Quintain Estates and Development, and was responsible for the delivery of a wide range of regeneration

projects including Wembley Park and the Greenwich Peninsula.

He said: "Research indicates that market conditions support the development of Folkestone seafront at the current time.

"We therefore propose to move forward quickly to help trigger the full range of the socio-economic benefits we expect this project will bring.

"The scale of the development means that it will require significant new infrastructure, and it involves the creation of a high-quality environment, all of which comes at significant cost."

The project has received a £5.1m boost in the form of a grant from the Regional Growth Fund, as well as significant up-front funding from Sir Roger De Haan - son of Saga's founder Sidney De Haan.

The billionaire businessman has had his hand in a number of regeneration projects around Folkestone, having made his fortune through the sale of the Saga group in 2004 for £1.5bn before setting up the Sir Roger De Haan Charitable Trust, which supports a wide range of charitable causes and activities.

He has long owned Folkestone Harbour.

Construction of the fountains in Harbour Square and of popular restaurant RockSalt are examples of significant improvements in the environment around the inner harbour in recent years, while Sir Roger was also behind the £7m regeneration of the town's Creative Quarter, which has transformed the area around the once rundown Tontine Street.

Last week also marked the official re-opening of the Harbour Arm to great fanfare.

Hundreds waited for the gates to be opened after its refurbishment. It now boasts a range of places to eat, drink and take in the scene of the waves crashing against the harbour. It is hoped it will be a major selling point to pull in the punters as the tourism season gets fully under way this weekend for Easter.

Similarly, planning approval for a state-of-the-art indoor

FUTURE: Illustrations of how the long overdue development on Folkestone seafront will look



sports facility funded by the trust was granted by the district council earlier this month.

The new £10m centre, which will be situated off Tontine Street, will include an indoor multi-storey skate park, together with modern facilities for climbing, bouldering and boxing, including a potential new home for Folkestone Amateur Boxing Club.

The finished design also incorporates a café for use by people taking part in sporting activities and by spectators, a rooftop function room with views out to the harbour and 32 car parking spaces.

The project is believed to be the first multi-storey urban skate park in the world, and has attracted international attention amongst the skating community.

Preparation work on the site will begin almost immediately, with construction expected to take between 18 and 24 months.

These regeneration projects have helped revitalise the ambience of the area, with many businesses reporting an uplift in footfall and commercial activity, and FHC spokesperson Peter

Bettley believes the developments can only be a positive for the town.

He said: "It's not a case of us making the town into a millionaire's playground.

"If you look at what's happened in cities like Liverpool, Newcastle and Manchester, it's fantastic, and we want to see something like that here."

The new activity on the seafront will include the development of improved public access from the northern side of the harbour.

People will be able to travel across the Grade II listed, but disused, railway viaduct and swing bridge, and through the disused former Folkestone Harbour station.

This forms a convenient route to the future development and to the Harbour Arm, though project chiefs have swiftly assured residents that key historic buildings and railway infrastructure will be retained and restored to ensure the character of the site fully remains.

Further work on the site will include the management and mitigation of the risk of flooding, which will be done by using

additional shingle to reinforce the beach, making it wider and higher at its narrowest and lowest points.

Active beach management will take place on an ongoing basis, as already happens at other points along the coast.

Bosses say this will bring additional benefits in terms of providing flood protection in the future for existing properties in the area, and enlarging the area of dry beach that can be enjoyed by the public.

In addition to this, the general level of the area will be raised by between 0.3 and one metre.

Site investigation work will explore the possibility of sourcing some of the material required by dredging the outer harbour area, which will help avoid transporting materials from further away.

It will also improve access to the harbour for fishing and leisure vessels.

Mr Crump added: "During the coming months, there will be considerable activity on the site, and we shall see significant steps towards the delivery of this major new development for Folkestone and its seafront."



TODAY: The derelict site which once housed the Rotunda



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EU referendum: A changing climate

In the latest article on key EU issues, the University of Kent's **Professor Christopher Rootes** looks at how our environmental approach could be altered by the way we vote in June 23's referendum

FEW environmental problems are neatly contained within national boundaries.

Some, such as the pollution of the atmosphere and the oceans, are truly global.

Every summer, pollution from the European continent settles over Kent and produces dangerous levels of ground-level ozone.

Every year, prevailing winds drive polluted air from Britain to Scandinavia, where it has been blamed for acidifying lakes. When it comes to air pollution, we really are all in it together.

National governments only gradually recognised the character and gravity of environmental issues, and many were slow to accept that many environmental problems can only be effectively tackled at transnational level.

Concern about environmental degradation increased during the 1970s as advances in scientific knowledge made the transboundary nature of environmental problems ever more clear.

Bird protection organisations, for example, became increasingly

aware that it was not enough to protect birds and their habitat in one country but that it was necessary to extend that protection along the length of birds' migratory routes.

Against this background, the EU took up the policies and standards of the European leaders in environmental protection and promoted them as the bases of pan-European standards.

Thus the EU became a global leader in environmental policy, spurring its members to raise their environmental performance, and offering a template of environmental standards for other states on and beyond the European continent.

This became especially important with the collapse of the socialist regimes of central and eastern Europe from 1989.

As part of the conditions for EU membership – along with democratic politics and respect for human rights – new members of the EU were required to adopt the environmental standards that had already been developed in the EU.

Thus the EU secured higher levels of environmental protection across an ever wider geographical range.



The other great driver of EU policy on the environment has been the Single European Market (SEM). Common environmental standards are an essential to the SEM because they prevent individual states from gaining competitive advantage by undercutting others' costs of production by tolerating higher levels of environmental damage.

Thus, through the SEM, environmental standards have been driven up across the EU, and the EU has set higher standards for non-EU states that seek to sell their exports into the EU.

Although the EU's goal is common European environmental standards, individual member states have secured temporary exceptions to give them time to adapt to common standards.

Thus the UK, which, more than any other developed EU state, relied upon landfill to manage its waste, negotiated an extended period in which to comply with EU waste directives.

The EU's great weakness in environmental policy is that of policy implementation.

Because it does not itself have the capacity to implement policy, the EU relies on the individual member states to do so.

As a result, the implementation of environmental policies varies somewhat from state to state, as national governments tend to implement more zealously policies that fit best with their own priorities and to neglect those that do not suit them.

Only rarely does the European Commission prosecute cases of non-compliance, preferring the pragmatic Anglo-Saxon approach of persuasion to the Germanic one of litigation.

The outstanding case of UK failure



AUTHOR: Professor Christopher Rootes

fully to implement EU standards concerns urban air pollution, with London likely to be in breach of EU air quality limits until at least 2025.

This reflects a wider failure in the EU, where environmental protection has recently been sidelined by economic policies that prioritise manufacturing production.

Thus the automobile industry, which revolves around diesel engines that are now recognised to be much more dangerously polluting than was previously believed, has been protected from tougher environmental regulation by agreements between the governments, notably Germany and the UK.

In general, however, the EU has been the principal driver of higher

environmental standards that benefit the health of the environment and people.

In the negotiations to achieve global agreement on measures to arrest damaging climate change, the EU has been not merely a leading player but a global champion.

In this it has greatly amplified the voice of successive UK governments. It is unlikely that, outside the UK would be so influential in the development of international environmental policy.

Christopher Rootes is professor of environmental politics and political sociology at the University of Kent's school of social policy, sociology and social research.



SWIRL: EU's clout over pollution levels are often restricted by each nation

Gurkhas in Nepal help earthquake survivors

One year on from the devastating quake which killed thousands and left villages flattened, soldiers from the county are continuing to help with the rebuilding process...

GURKHAS based in Maidstone have swapped the county town for a remote Nepalese community to help it rebuild after the devastation of the earthquake last year.

The quake on April 25 killed 8,000 people and injured tens of thousands. Whole villages were flattened.

But since October, the Queen's Gurkha Engineers have been helping to rebuild remote communities.

The Gurkhas, who hail from Nepal, have long worked within the British Army and have for many years settled in Kent after being stationed in Maidstone and Folkestone.

After deploying to support humanitarian relief efforts in the immediate aftermath of the quake the Gurkhas' focus has shifted to reconstruction.

Some 90 troops from 70 Gurkha Field Squadron, 36 Engineer Regiment, travelled to Nepal in October on Operation Marmat 2 – which means 'rebuild' in Nepali. Living in tents pitched in the foothills of the Himalayas, the troops have built schools, community centres and houses in the villages of serving Gurkhas, their families and veterans.

The unit is working on behalf of the Gurkha Welfare Scheme (GWS), the delivery arm of the Gurkha Welfare Trust charity.

GWS tasks the unit and provides the required materials.

Across four communities – Jiri, Netrakali, Jaubari and Pachok – the Gurkhas have built six school buildings with 25 classrooms in total, two community centres, an accommodation block for GWS staff and four houses for retired Gurkhas.

The community facilities are prefabricated buildings, while the pensioners' houses are built with traditional materials and techniques but made earthquake-resistant with reinforced concrete ring beams.

The squadron returned to its base at Invicta Park Barracks, Maidstone, at the end of February, with colleagues from 69 Gurkha Field Squadron now to taking over.

Major Chris Elworthy MBE, officer commanding 70 Gurkha Field Squadron, said: "Operation Marmat 2 has seen QGE (Queen's Gurkha Engineers) sappers apply the combat engineering principles of 'adapt, improvise, overcome' to their maximum extent to help the people of Nepal.

"We have faced the challenges of living under canvas through a Nepali winter; the logistical difficulties of resourcing task sites that are a six-hour drive from our base in Kathmandu over steep, rutted tracks; and adapting our skills to use local materials and techniques.

"We can all be immensely proud of our contribution to Nepal's reconstruction."

Building stone walls using mud mortar is a far cry from the brick-laying taught in the UK, while the sappers have had to learn how to construct bamboo scaffolding.

Staff sergeant Birendra Kambang, 41, said: "It has been very hard to apply our trade skills to local materials and tools that are very different or do not meet the standards we are used to.

"It has also been very cold while we are working and living in tents and washing in the open air, which has taken its toll.

"Despite this, morale has been high because Nepal is our home country and we want to do all we can to help after the earthquake."



LOSS: The homes of so many were left destroyed after the earthquake on April 25



HELP: Gurkhas get briefed on how best to build the much needed homes and facilities



UNITED: A real team effort by the Gurkhas from Maidstone. All pictures: MoD

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60s Party Breaks

Stoke Rochford Hall, Lincs

30 Apr, 14 Oct, 4 Nov, 2016

Quote: SR-KOS

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INCLUDED: Entertainment • 2 dinners & 2 breakfasts • Free use of leisure facilities • 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray • Free Parking



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60s Party Break

Penyard House, Wye Valley

Friday, 3 June, 2016

Quote: PH-KOS

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4 Star Hinckley Island Hotel
Leicestershire

Friday, 17 June, 2016 - Quote HK6-KOS

Join us for a private party break featuring 60s bands The Fortunes and The Ivy League at the 4 star Hinckley Island Hotel nestled in the heart of Leicestershire near Nuneaton and Market Bosworth. Relax in the hotel's indoor pool and fitness suite, the Triumph Sports bar and Piazza Lounge Bar or venture out to nearby attractions, before dinner and fun-packed evening both nights.

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Mamma Mia & Super 70s Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk

Friday, 8 July, 2016

Quote: SS7-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Super Summer Private Party - for over 40s only. Our fun-packed weekend features 70s chart toppers Showaddywaddy, a screening of Mamma Mia the movie plus Abba and Rod Stewart tributes. Entertainment is virtually non-stop from Friday to Sunday evening and you'll also enjoy free drinks every night.

INCLUDED: 3 Free drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Entertainment • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - club upgrade available • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • Free Parking



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Ultimate 60s Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk

Friday, 8 November, 2016

Quote: XP11-KOS

Join us on the Suffolk coast for a Fab Private Party - for over 40s only - to get you in the mood for Christmas. Enjoy plenty of festive fun, free drinks every night and non-stop entertainment from Friday to Sunday evening. This year's line-up includes: The Searchers, Union Gap, The New Honeycombs, The Cufflinks plus a tribute to Dusty Springfield.

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Super 60s Premium Christmas Party at Warner Norton Grange, Isle of Wight

Friday 25 Nov, 2016 - Quote: NG11-KOS

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Women Seeking

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MATURE lady early 80s, family orientated, likes dancing, holidays especially cruising, WLTW similar aged gentlemen with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421429

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715

DANCE partner, 70-75, sought by lady in Tunbridge Wells area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421071

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3024 Box: 420237

GENUINE single female 49, seeking good-natured, intelligent, polite, single male for friendship/relationship. Text only to Mailbox: 4198603

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3016 Box: 413399

KIND, caring lady of African origin, living in UK for past 20 years, looking for a gentleman who is kind and caring, must have a GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421041

SINGLE late 60s female, n/s, GSOH, likes going out and being active, not fun on my own, seeking single male, 66-70, n/s, with GSOH, to share each others interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421433

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3000 Box: 419673

SINGLE slim female, 68, n/s, GSOH, likes cooking, walking etc, seeks male, single, slim 65-70, n/s, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420091

ABIGAIL, 33yrs slim sophisticated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasures with a discreet experienced man, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3012 Box: 421339

SLIM female GSOH, 5'3, Likes walking, pub lunches, days out, looking for soul mate, smart appearance, similar interests N/S GSOH, easy going. Text only to Mailbox no: 4762600

PETITE Asian lady, slim, N/S, seeks genuine N/S male for winning/dining, fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414515

KIND lady, 50s, been broken hearted, seeks kind, genuine man for caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417435

KAREN, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel: 0906 515 3036 Box: 407953

ANGELA, 53, African origin, looking for a kind, genuine, caring gentleman, 60 years +. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421039

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3020 Box 421375

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SALLY ANN, care worker for the elderly so loves older men. Im only 29yrs but very mature. Text only Box: 4145714

MARIE, very lonely middle-aged woman, looking for a kind hearted older man, late 70s/early 80s for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418955

RACHEL late 40s, blonde, blue eyes and very voluptuous. Looking for a kind, caring honest man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418741

ESSEX lady, mid 60's, adaptable, seeking nice male, likes most things. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418537

AMANDA, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418117

JASMINE, musical lady, husband in the forces and bored alone. 35yrs but loves older men. ACA. Text only Box: 4161836

MARION, early 70s, young at heart, GSOH, active, likes walking, gardening, meals out, travel, theatre and animals, looking for male friendship to share interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419657

KAREN, blue eyed blonde, size 14 with a large bust, 46yrs. Give me a call for some discreet chats. Text only Box: 4053061

CHANTELLE, 51y3 light brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, like nights in/out, walks, animals, romance seeks honest guy. Littlehampton. Text only to Mailbox no: 4923883

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HELEN, widow 58, medium build, 5ft 4ins, blonde, GSOH, likes a chat, days out, looking to start again with someone of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376243

FEMALE, 59, GSOH, many interests, seeking caring male for friendship maybe more, genuine calls only. Text only to Mailbox No: 4819793

FEMALE easy going, kind, loving, genuine, romantic, car boots, gardening, seeking male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417603

PAT, 68, young at heart, slim, proud 4' 11" GSOH, N/S, likes walking etc Whistable area, seeks similar slim easy going male 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419081

SUSIE fit, friendly, looking for someone to love and look after me, preferably, older, N/S male with own car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392537

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

ATTRACTIVE lady early 50's, petite, Scandinavian blonde professional, WLTW professional, caring gent, 50-60's for attention and future together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416569

HAPPY young looking lady, 62, likes socialising, conversation, seeking nice man to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407383

KATIE, 5ft 5, slim dark hair, very attractive female, likes most things in life and a good laugh, looking for a similar male. Text only to Mailbox No: 4722127

NICE female looking for decent genuine male for friendship to start out with. Text only to Mailbox No: 4710874

Men Seeking

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mydate24

KEN 61, 6ft, slim, likes socialising, drinking, animals, countryside, seaside, meals out, seeks similar lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333017

SHY male seeks confident, strong willed lady, to take the lead for mutual fun, looks/age unimportant. ACA Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421223

MALE, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195

MALE, 54, looking for discreet lady, 60-70, for adult fun and a special friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421085

BARRY, 50, 6ft, well built, seeks lovely lady for good times, loving and enjoying life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421047

WIDOWER 67, N/S, likes real ale, country music, gardening, DIY, seeks N/S female for lots of TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381143

CHRIS widower, likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191

MALE, 6ft, slim, 67, divorced, retired, likes social drinks, meals out, nights in and all other, WLTW lady with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421351

MATURE cross dressing guy, seeking lady willing to apply a full make over and give a manicure and pedicure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421341

ALISON 39, petite with long brown hair, hazel eyes, very loving, seeking similar male for an uncomplicated relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416517

ALISON 30, pretty, slim with long brown hair, fit and active seeks fit older male for energetic relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416497

BLONDE female, 5ft 1ins, size 12, likes meals out, drinks, nights in, walks, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409025

RACHEL attractive, blue eyes, blonde, voluptuous, seeking kind, honest, generous kind male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418403

JAN 63, young at heart, petite, 5ft 2ins, brown hair, blue eyes, GSOH, likes cooking, countryside, travel, days out, seeks easy going male, 60-70. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416349

HUBERT, lives in Rochester, single, lonely, looking for someone to get together with and make something happen and enjoy the rest of life with! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420049

PAUL 52, seeks loving female for exciting times, meals out, weekends away, seek nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418077

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

MALE 56, likes good conversation, seeks older lady for discreet friendly fun, 50 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419201

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951

HEALTHY 61yr old male, N/S, medium build, likes France, cooking, gardening, seeks female, 50-60 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 286360

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 5ft8, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025

DAVE 64 solvent, working, not bad looking, would like to meet slim, fun to be with female, 50 to 60, to get to know. Chelmsford area. Text only to Mailbox: 4368820

MALE 38, good-looking, GSOH, seeks lady, 35-55 for laughter and lots of fun. Kent/Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369301

CALM, kind and good company, male seeking a lovely lady for good times and fun and loving. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419733

MATTHEW, five foot eleven, looking for a mature lady for discreet friendship and a few laughs. Dartford area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419469

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, just retired, own house, likes holidays, reading, cinema, WLTW similar professional lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420767

BROWN eyed white mature, handsome male, seeking black female, 18-50 for discreet no strings adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410377

NEVILLE 5ft 6ins, Caribbean, likes wine, nights in, seeks female to spend the rest of his life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 333911

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163

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PROFESSIONAL, romantic male, 44, likes meals out, cinema, music, holidays, seeks female, 30-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 250195

MALE 51, 5ft 8ins, N/S, GSOH, easygoing, seeks slim female, 18-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338269

PAUL 48, 5ft 8ins, GSOH, likes music, cinema, seeks female for fun, friendship and LTR. Tunbridge Wells. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371985

MALE 56, likes good conversation, seeks older lady for discreet friendly fun, 50 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419201

YOUNG 60yr old male, knows how to treat a lady, seeking special lady to spoil for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419951

MICK 50, seeks attractive female for nice times out, genuine calls only. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417691

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013

PAUL GSOH, 5ft 8ins, medium build, seeking Miss Right for LTR to put the spark back into life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391970

MALE 50, GSOH, looking for soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387485

DAVE 46, seeks active female for walking, climbing and outdoor fun. Days out and evenings in. Friendly and GSOH. Text only to Mailbox no: 5338933

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, just retired, own house, loves holidays, WLTW a lady for meals out, and to enjoy each others company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419751

SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163



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SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163

NICE looking genuine man would like to meet nice lady any age for company, outings with GSOH. Text only to Mailbox no: 4922399

RICHARD 59 from East Kent, WLTW genuine female 50 plus for friendship! Text only to Mailbox No: 4448765

ANDREW, 63, likes animals, walking, boot fairs, shopping, looking for someone similar living in the Maidstone/Kent area, for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 419203

Gay Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

BI guy heavy build, WLTW assertive adventurous white or Indian guy for mutual pleasure. Text only to Mailbox no: 4231273

SUBMISSIVE bi male, clean and shaven, looking for similar male, n/s, for adult fun, can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420413

SENIOR bi male, 70s, n/s, clean-shaven, living in the Maidstone area, seeking similar bi male, aged 50-60, in the Maidstone area, for myself to give service to. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420219

ROBBIE, 54, reasonably fit, bi-curious, I'm very inexperienced and would like to meet a CD or TV preferably but not essential for a bit of fun. Kent area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421357

MATURE guy, loves CD, seeks similar friend for mutual fun, can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421093

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MUSICAL: Duncan James will be taking on the role of Tick in the show

Blue star looking forward to starring role in a hit musical

Molly Kersey-Law spoke to Duncan James about Priscilla Queen of the Desert

HIT musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert is set to begin its run at Dartford's Orchard Theatre next month.

Singer Duncan James, who shot to fame as a member of successful boyband Blue, will be taking on the role of Tick in the production.

Speaking about the show, he explained: "Priscilla Queen of the Desert is about three drag queens who get on a bus called Priscilla. They go from Sydney to Alice Springs to perform in a casino."

"My character hasn't told his two friends that the real reason he's going is to meet his son for the first time – he's kept that quiet."

"The show is quite over the top, there's lots of amazing costumes and songs and my story happens along the way."

"It's a really fun, exciting

musical with great songs and a wonderful story that's about acceptance and finding self-happiness for your own reasons."

"A lot of those reasons come from feeling accepted in our sexuality."

The musical features a number of colourful costumes and a number of well-known pop songs such as I Will Survive, Hot Stuff, Go West, Say A Little Prayer, Always On My Mind, Boogie Wonderland and Girls Just Wanna Have Fun.

It is based on the smash hit film of the same name, which was directed by Stephan Elliot and released in 1994.

And Mr James believes that the film has translated very well on to the stage.

"The film was so iconic. When people see the stage show they come away feeling uplifted."

"The audience are always on their feet at the end."

"It's a great show and I think everyone just loves it."

"I really like, at the end of the show, when we do this song called We Belong."

"It's such a lovely, great number and it just goes down so well."

As well as being one quarter of pop band Blue – who had three number one albums and 40 number one singles worldwide – Mr James has also played the roles of Warner Huntington III in West End production Legally Blonde and Billy Flynn in Chicago.

He has a strong background in musical theatre.

"I have been doing musical theatre since I was four," he said, "I studied it at school and did A Level theatre studies."

"I have never toured before, so

this has been really fun. It's a great cast and company of people."

So why should people come along and see the show?

"We get stuck in front of our TVs in the comfort of our own homes nowadays and it's hard to get people to go out when you've got everything on your Sky box now."

"But nothing beats live theatre. Coming out to see a show like Priscilla is so uplifting, it's just amazing and everyone that's been to see it will tell you the same thing."

Priscilla Queen of the Desert will be running from April 25 to 30, with performances taking place at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets to the show range from £20 to £39.

For more information, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

» Email us details of your event to: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Tel: 01233 653476



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Waggon at Hale Chatham

Why here?

The independent, family-run pub is situated on Capstone Road. Emma and her team are on hand to offer you a warm and friendly welcome whether you're looking for somewhere to have a pint of real ale or enjoy some food.

On the menu...

A wide range of tasty meals and snacks are available whether you choose to eat in the restaurant or the pub itself. They have a regular range of specials which change daily. They can be viewed on the chalk boards.

How to book...

Call them on 01634 400800 or visit them online at www.waggonathale.com.

Your guide to six of the best places to enjoy a meal

BEING the Garden of England, there is no denying that Kent is home to some great food.

Earning its title from the wide range of produce that local farmers and fishermen are able to provide, the county boasts a number of places to enjoy a good meal.

As if Kent was not blessed enough with some of the finest produce around - such as Dover sole and Romney Marsh lamb - the county has also become spoilt for choice by the variety of eateries which have sprung up around local towns, villages and countryside.

Whatever your favourite cuisine is, Kent will be able to satisfy your food cravings.

Now that spring is here, and with its lighter mornings and evenings and warmer weather, many people will be looking for somewhere they can make the most of it and

enjoy some of the excellent food that the county has to offer.

What's more, there is a wide selection of locally brewed beers, ciders and wines available which will offer the perfect accompaniment to your meal.

A number of pubs, cafes and restaurants can offer you a relaxed setting to enjoy your food and drink, complete with some beautiful surroundings.

Whether you are looking for somewhere near to the bustling city of Canterbury or would like to enjoy somewhere which boasts countryside views, there is something for you.

Here is our guide to six of the best places to eat in the county, where you can sit back, relax and enjoy some home-cooked food made with fresh, locally-sourced ingredients.



The Dove Inn Dargate

Why here?

The Dove Inn is an award-winning, family-run traditional country pub situated between Canterbury and Whitstable. They pride themselves on their welcoming atmosphere and have a lovely, dog-friendly garden.

On the menu...

Whether it's a freshly-made sandwich, their two for one wood-fired pizza night on Mondays or food from their renowned a la carte menu, there is something for everyone. They offer the very best in local Kent produce.

How to book...

Give them a call on 01227 751360 or visit www.thedov-edargate.co.uk.



White Horse Inn Bridge

Why here?

Come and visit the newly refurbished White Horse Inn at Bridge. Dating back to the 16th century, this former coaching inn is located on the Old London to Dover Road just 2.5 miles south of Canterbury. Relax and enjoy the ambience of a traditional pub, with beamed ceilings and roaring fires.

The White Horse Inn is open every day, with ample car parking at the rear.

They look forward to welcoming anyone who decides to pay a visit.

On the menu...

Sample the delights of their bar and restaurant menus developed with their new chef with the focus on flavour-some, fresh ingredients. Choose from their extensive range of cask ales, ciders and wines.

How to book...

Call them on 01227 833830 or visit them online at www.whitehorsebridge.co.uk.

Kits Coty Aylesford

Why here?

The family-owned Kent restaurant is perfectly situated on Bluebell Hill, providing spectacular views over the Weald of Kent. The 45-seat private dining room is popular for family events and can be booked for weddings.

On the menu...

There are a number of a la carte, vegetarian and vegan options on the menu. Mains include a fish dish of the day and free range chicken breast. Music evenings, which include a three-course meal, have been a success.

How to book...

Call them on 01634 684445 or visit them online at www.kitscoty.co.uk.



Green Room Canterbury

Why here?

Facing the River Stour with picturesque views of Canterbury Cathedral is the Marlowe Theatre's own Green Room restaurant. Whether you're looking for a light lunch, or the full pre-show dining experience, they offer an informal and friendly atmosphere with great food, made from the best locally sourced ingredients. Outside of show times, they offer light bites, free WIFI and fantastic coffee. In the

summer, sit in the sunshine and enjoy an ice cream.

On the menu...

The seasonal menus are designed for the pre-show diner and the wine list will compliment any dish. You can relax and enjoy either the two course option for £16.50 or three courses for £19.50.

How to book...

Call 01227 862485 or visit them online at www.marlowetheatre.com.



The Brown Jug Upchurch

Why here?

A friendly local public house offering excellent home-cooked food. There is a clean, quiet beer garden surrounded by orchards, with wheelchair access. It has a gate with a latch so children can run around until the sun sets.

On the menu...

A traditional Sunday lunch offers four meats and two vegetarian options. A variety of lunchtime and evening bar snacks are also available. The extended menu features fresh and locally-sourced ingredients.

How to book...

Call them on 01634 366543 or visit them online at www.thebrownjugupchurch.co.uk.

■ IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT **Six of the best** CONTACT 01233 653461 OR EMAIL features@kosmedia.co.uk

Hit TV host Stephen Mulhern is set to return to Canterbury

By Luke May
luke.may@archant.co.uk

TELEVISION presenter Stephen Mulhern is set to star in the Marlowe Theatre's pantomime Dick Whittington this year.

The Catchphrase and Britain's Got More Talent host first starred at the Canterbury theatre in 2011 and 2012, during the Cinderella pantomime run.

Now he will be playing Idle Jack at the venue, alongside stars including Ben Roddy – who will play Dolly the Cook – and Lloyd Hollett – who will be taking on the role of Captain Crabstick.

The show will be written by Paul Hendy and produced by Evolution, the team behind last year's box office hit Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, which featured EastEnders star Rita Simons.

Mr Mulhern said that he was "over the moon" to be coming to Canterbury to perform this Christmas.

He said: "The Marlowe is a stunning theatre and Evolution Productions, who I love working with, produce some of the best panto-



STAR: Stephen Mulhern will be performing in Dick Whittington at the Marlowe Theatre

mimes in the country.

"I can't wait to be working alongside Paul Hendy again and my good friends Ben and Lloyd.

"We aim to make Dick Whittington the best pantomime Kent has ever seen."

Producer Mr Hendy is delighted at the star's return.

He said: "He is one of the biggest stars on British television and we are absolutely thrilled that he has

agreed to come back to The Marlowe to appear in our spectacular, family pantomime, Dick Whittington.

"In my opinion, Stephen is one of the best pantomime performers in the country and I know the people of Kent are going to love him in this show.

"Tickets are selling incredibly well, with some shows already sold out, so I strongly urge people to

book early for the best seats."

Dick Whittington will be running at the theatre from November 25 to January 8, 2017, with both daytime and evening performances available.

Tickets range from £11 to £35 and they are available to buy now. For further details, or to book, you can visit www.marlowetheatre.com or call the box office on 01227 787787.

Coppelia is due in Margate

VIENNA Festival Ballet will be performing Coppelia at the Margate Winter Gardens on April 7 at 7.30pm.

For more information, or to book, visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.



The hits of Rory Gallagher

BAND Sinnerboy will be performing the hits of iconic guitarist Rory Gallagher at the Beaverwood Club in Chislehurst on April 7.

Doors open at 7.30pm and the show will be starting at 8.15pm.

For more information, you can visit www.sinnerboy.co.uk.

Show about serial killers

TREVOR Marriott will be bringing his new audiovisual show – The UK's Worst Serial Killers – to the Woodville, Gravesend, on April 21.

For more details, visit www.trevormariott.co.uk.



The Overtones perform

VOCAL group The Overtones will be performing in musical show That's Entertainment at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from May 24 to 28.

The song and dance show features music from the 40s and 50s.

For details, visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call 01322 220000.

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It's vital to microchip your pets

With a new law coming into place on April 6, all dogs must be microchipped by the time they are eight weeks old. We took a look at the new law and just what it means for you and your furry friend...

WITH just over a week left until it becomes compulsory for every dog in England, Scotland and Wales to be microchipped, world-famous rescue centre Battersea Dogs and Cats Home has revealed the difficulties that it has faced reuniting pets with their owners.. Microchipping involves placing a small electronic chip underneath an

animal's skin. The chip can then be read by a scanner, revealing the unique number that has been placed on it.

The microchipping process is said to be quite similar to getting an injection, with little or no pain experienced – most pets do not feel it being implanted.

The chip is roughly the size of a grain of rice and an animal having

one makes it much easier for it to be reunited with its owner should they become separated. Crucially, it will also solve the issue of out-of-control animals and disputes over who is the legal owner of the pet should action need to be taken.

The dog owner's contact details are recorded next to each of the unique numbers on the electronic chip.

LEGAL: All dogs must be microchipped by April 6 under the new law



PAINLESS: The chip is roughly the size of a grain of rice



be left without homes. Failure to do this could result in a £500 fine and a criminal conviction.

Those who are keeping dogs as pets and breeding them are also going to be legally required to keep all of their details up to date so that they can be contacted if their missing pet is found.

Amy Wilson, charity manager at Support Adoption for Pets, said: "We cannot express the importance of getting your dog microchipped. It is to the owners advantage and gives peace of mind that your family dog can be returned home.

"It is also vital that all owners keep their contact details up-to-date on a microchip database. We advise all dog owners looking to get their dog microchipped to check out their local vets and pet shops as many are running reduced cost or even free microchipping."

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home has struggled in the past when animals have not been microchipped, meaning that they cannot be traced back to their owners and need to be rehomed by the charity.

Only 51 out of the 159 lost and stray pets (32 per cent) that have arrived at the animal charity's three centres - one of which is located in the county, near Brands Hatch - over the last two months were claimed by their owners, and 35 are still looking for new homes

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POSITIVE: Microchipping helps reunite lost pets with their owners

now.

Dogs often can't be reunited with their owners because they either don't have a microchip in the first place or the chip's details are out of date.

Steven Craddock, Battersea's

intake manager, has welcomed the new change in the law, and hopes that this will yield some positive results for both dogs and their owners.

He explained: "With only days to go until microchipping for dogs is

"We cannot stress enough the importance of getting your pet microchipped."

Amy Wilson, Support Adoption for Pets

compulsory, owners need to chip their dogs so they don't have to suffer the heartache and trauma of losing a pet forever."

He said that the lack of a microchip means that some animals aren't able to be reunited with their owners at all.

"Our statistics show that we're only able to reunite a small percentage of strays with their owners because the dog doesn't have a microchip or the details are out of date," he added.

"This causes unnecessary stress for both the animal and the owner."

Owners have seven days to claim a missing pet before the charity can legally start looking for a new home for the dog.

Last year Battersea took in a total of 1,248 stray dogs.

The charity welcomes the new microchipping law which will require all owners in England, Scotland and Wales to have their dogs microchipped by April 6.

And the benefits to microchipping are not to be underestimated.

Mr Craddock explained: "It's incredibly heart-warming to see the relief on an owner's face when they're reunited with their missing pet.

"We take in around 13 dogs every day and we could ensure many more pets find their way home, if every dog was microchipped."

Battersea's community engagement team visits areas in and around the charity's three centres in London, Brands Hatch and Old Windsor in Berkshire to run events on responsible pet ownership.

Many of these events offer free dog microchipping, dog tag engraving, pet care advice, dog agility and children's activities.

The RSPCA's Kent North West Branch - which covers both the Dartford and Swanley areas - will also be holding a free microchipping event on April 2.

This will be taking place from 10am until midday.

This animal welfare charity's clinic will be open to anyone who falls within the required postcode area.

Booking is not necessary - just feel free to bring your dog along on the day.

However, if you are unable to attend one of these events, there are a number of other places to get your pet microchipped.

Pets at Home stores in the county are currently offering a discount on

their microchipping prices - charging £10 rather than the usual £15 - prior to the new law coming into effect.

There are stores located all around Kent, in areas including Maidstone, Chatham, Chatham, Gillingham, Sittingbourne, Tunbridge Wells, Gravesend, Sevenoaks and Ashford.

Pet owners are being encouraged to make an appointment at one of Pets at Home's branches to get the simple and essential procedure carried out.

Once the chip has been implanted under the animal's skin a unique code number will be stored along with the owner's contact details on to the UK's largest registration database - Petlog.

Pet owners will need to keep their details updated, recording any adaptations such as change of address or telephone number.

This can be done online by visiting www.petlog.org.uk/services/check-owner.

Speaking about the discount to microchipping prices, Dionne Mallett, store manager at Pets at Home Orpington, explained: "As the government deadlines approach, we want to remind pet owners to come in-store and have their dog, rabbit or cat microchipped.

"As well as it being law from April, there are many benefits of microchipping to help owners avoid the heartache of losing a pet."

Should you find a pet initially contact the local council.

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March update from your Independent MEP for South East
Janice Atkinson



My Week in Parliament – March Strasbourg

Turkey was the issue of the week. EU leaders agreed to pay Turkey an extra €3bn, making €6bn in total – so far, to 'manage' the migrant situation within their borders. Britain's contribution will be £500m. Yet we have no guarantees that they have the capabilities to do so. Apart from the cash demand, Turkey wants accelerated EU membership and relaxed VISA rules for 75m people. Is this what Britain wants from a country that abuses human rights, shuts down the most popular newspaper with riot police; has a dangerous human rights record; supports ISIS and bombs its own people? I don't, so in parliament I questioned EU leaders and Mrs Merkel's front man, Mr Brok. They didn't answer.

I also took part in a gender equality and family debate and attended an International Woman's Day event, in my role as a member of the gender committee. My colleagues are pushing for women migrants, who are mainly Muslim, to be fast-tracked and integrated into our societies. All very good and well meaning. However, I pointed out that due to multi-culturalism, Muslims that have been in the UK for 40 years have not integrated nor learnt English so what chance do we have of doing so for these women? And when their men join them they may not wish their women to work (which my colleagues push for), nor to be educated, which is against our values and could result in family discord. The committee

also pushes for sex and LGBT education in all primary schools – do Muslims wish this for their children? This is a clash of civilisations that is being forced upon us too quickly. This is too many people and too much for our society. Migrants should be encouraged and funded to stay in their own territories and returned to their homelands when safe. I also think that the gender committee's proposals for our own schools and society is too much and against British family interests.

Janice

Janice Atkinson MEP
UK Delegation
Europe of Nations
& Freedom Group

janiceatkinson.co.uk
[@janice4brexit](https://twitter.com/janice4brexit)



Sound of Music due in town

RENOWNED musical The Sound of Music will be performed at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford, from September 27 to October 1. Call 01322 220000 to book tickets.



Family show in Gravesend

FAMILY show Rapunzel Rocks will be performed at the Woodville, Gravesend, on April 1. The show features original songs and a number of dance routines. There will be performances taking place at 2.30pm and 5.30pm. Visit www.woodville.co.uk for details.

Pitmen Poets on stage

THE Pitmen Poets will be performing at the Theatre Royal Margate on January 29. The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets are £18. For details, visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.



The Proclaimers perform

THE Proclaimers will be performing at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, on June 5. The band is made up of twin brothers Craig and Charlie Reid. The show will be starting at 7.30pm and tickets are £32.65. Visit www.atgtickets.com/folkestone to book.

Topical show sees men and young girls dance

By Molly Kersey-Law
molly.kersey-law@archant.co.uk

A TOPICAL dance production featuring a number of young girls from Kent will be performed at the Folkestone Quarterhouse.

Men and Girls Dance, presented by Fevered Sleep, features five professional male dancers and nine girls who attend schools in areas including Folkestone, Ashford, Broadstairs and Hythe.

Created and choreographed by David Harradine and Sam Butler, artistic directors of Fevered Sleep, the show explores connections between men and girls which can sometimes be misconstrued.

The company is well-known for creating a number of performances, installations, films, books and digital art projects for adults and children.

"We live in a time when the very idea of men interacting with children in a public space causes anxiety," explained Mr Harradine.

"There's got to be another way of being; there's got to be the possibility for play, and care, and



tenderness, and empathy, and love. That's why we're doing this project; to celebrate the potential for play and care and tenderness and empathy and love."

He said that the show was accessible to everyone.

"Men and Girls Dance is for anyone who's interested in contemporary performance or dance," he said.

"It's for anyone who cares about human relationships. It's for people who have never been to see contemporary dance before, and

who might be worried about it, or who might think it's not for them. "It is for them. It's for everyone."

Tickets to the show are £10 or £8 with concessions.

It will be performed at the Quarterhouse on April 8 and 9, with a performance at 7pm on the Friday and shows at 2.30pm and 7.30pm the following day.

For further information or to book tickets, visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk.

Alternatively call the box office on 01303 760750.



DANCE: Five male dancers and nine young girls star in the show



TOPICAL: The show addresses certain anxieties within society

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The welcome return of soul's Screaming Eagle

Charles Bradley set to release his third album, the first new music from him since his mother's death

IT'S five years since Charles Bradley released debut album *No Time For Dreaming*, and took his first steps away from a life almost too difficult to imagine.

With no knowledge of his backstory, the album could be mistaken for a misplaced soul gem, cut during the golden era of Atlantic, Stax, or some other magnificent label.

The classic themes were all present; heartache and pain, namely, peppered with resilience, while Mr Bradley, staring out from the sleeve, looked very much like a man who'd seen life from tough perspective.

He was spotted by Daptone Records boss Gabriel Roth, performing as Black Velvet in New York.

Mr Roth informed Tommy Bren-

neck and the two got to work on getting him original songs to record, the first of which were released in 2002.

Around this time, film-maker Poull Brien, who met Mr Bradley when directing a video of his in 2010, was making the unmissable documentary that charts the singer's story.

Charles Bradley: *The Soul Of America* premiered at 2012's South By South West festival in Texas, and the so-called Screaming Eagle of Soul's star was cemented.

Mr Bradley was born in Florida, in 1948, to extreme poverty.

Abandoned by his mother, from the age of eight-months to eight years he was raised by his grandmother, until his mother returned and took him and his siblings to live in Brooklyn,



MUSICAL: Charles Bradley

where he became infatuated with James Brown after seeing him perform.

Still dirt poor, he ran away from home at 14, and trained as a cook in Maine where he stayed for 10 years, before moving around and finally settling in California in 1977, where he worked as a caretaker for an apartment block for 17 years. He moved back to New York to care for his mother when she told him she was ill.

Around 1996, Mr Bradley had health scare of his own, almost dying from a severe reaction to penicillin.

That same year, he awoke one morning to the sound of sirens, soon discovering it was police attending the scene of his brother's murder.

While his songs don't address these

issues explicitly, the emotions are clear. His second album, *Victim Of Love*, released in 2013, continued the story and built on the success of both his debut and Mr Brien's film.

And now we come to *Changes*, his third album – the first new music from Mr Bradley since his mother's death in 2014, which features a cover of Black Sabbath's *Changes*, a song he says conveys his grief.

"All of this album was written and recorded around the time I saw my mother take her last breath and leave us. When I heard the lyrics to *Changes*, I knew it was exactly what I was feeling," he said.

Changes is released on April 1.

Visit www.thecharlesbradley.com for more details.

A story of immigration

WORKLIGHT Theatre will be bringing their multi-award winning show, *Labels*, to Margate.

The show charts a childhood spent in Devon in the 90s, offering a story of mixed heritage and immigration.

It will be at the Theatre Royal Margate on May 19 at 7.30pm.

For further details, or to book, visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com.

The Three Degrees

POP trio The Three Degrees will be performing in Maidstone next month.

The trio formed in the 1960s and their hits include *When Will I See You Again?* and *Take Good Care of Yourself*.

They will be performing at the Hazlitt Theatre on April 9.

For more information, or to book tickets to the show, you can visit www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk.

Lee Nelson performs

COMEDIAN Lee Nelson will be performing at the Churchill Theatre, Bromley, next month.

Mr Nelson has appeared on a number of TV shows including BBC's *Live at the Apollo*.

The stand-up show will be taking place on April 7 at 8pm.

Tickets to the performance are £21.

To find out more you can visit www.churchilltheatre.co.uk.

A new musical show

A MUSICAL show featuring stories from a variety of different areas will be performed in Folkestone in May.

A *Singer's Tale* will be performed at the Quarterhouse on May 6 at 7.30pm.

It is suitable for those aged 14 and over.

For more information about the performance, or to book tickets, you can visit www.quarterhouse.co.uk or call the box office on 01303 760750.



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Vietnam offers calm environment

TRAVEL REVIEW: Vietnam

by Katie Wright

WHEN I was asked to complete a wellbeing questionnaire a day before setting off on my holiday, I put a big cross over an angry-looking face, indicating the maximum five out of five for my stress levels.

Fast-forward 24 hours and I'd be circling the smiley face at the opposite end of the scale. I'm sitting, mojito in hand, watching dusk descend over Vietnam's east coast, and I couldn't be calmer.

Almost as soon as I arrived at the Fusion Maia Danang, I was whisked off to the spa for the two daily treatments that are included for every guest as part of the resort's spa-inclusive holistic health approach.

After the 11-hour flight from London to Hanoi (and connecting 60-minute zip south to Da Nang) a bamboo roll massage – where a warm bamboo stick is used to work lemon-grass scented oil into aching muscles – was exactly what I needed.

Next up was the best manicure I've ever had, a thoroughly attentive hour-long session that went way beyond the usual hurried file and polish I get back home.

The spacious, white-walled spa spans two floors and is run by a team of very attentive women. Open from 10am to 10pm, it never feels overcrowded, even though the majority of guests take advantage of their full allocation of spa treats, sampling everything from facials and body wraps, to Reiki healing and a selection of massages for different purposes.

Early on day two, I opt for the stretch release massage and am told to put on a pair of loose cotton pyjamas. I notice that my therapist has more muscles than the rest of her col-



RELAXATION: Fusion Maia Danang resort in Vietnam includes two daily spa treatments for each guests



leagues and it soon becomes clear why: for the next hour I'm stretched and pummelled (delightfully) into oblivion. The treatment culminates with a spine-cracking twist which is like nothing I've ever experienced.

It feels glorious, and is the perfect preparation for my next activity.

In a studio overlooking the beachfront in central Da Nang – mercifully cooler than the sticky 30-degree heat outside – I take part in an aerial yoga

class led by a firm-but-friendly German instructor.

At first, my fellow beginners and I are a bit shy about the mantras we're required to chant with zeal, but we soon get into the swing of things, clinging to wide lengths of stretchy silk suspended from the ceiling, using the ropes to support ever more taxing poses until we're hanging upside down like bats.

It's exhilarating, and my aching

limbs the next day prove that it wasn't just the silk that did the stretching.

Closing mantras done and dusted, that afternoon I head in the other direction along the coast, a 30 minute drive south – past miles of flooded paddy fields – to Hoi An.

The town, which is a Unesco World Heritage site, was a crucial location for Dutch, Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese traders in the 16th century, and the architecture reflects the melt-

TRAVEL FACTS

KATIE Wright was a guest of Kuoni, who offer a seven-night holiday in Vietnam from £1,746 per person, including five nights with breakfast at the 5-star Fusion Maia Danang and two nights on room-only at the 4.5-star Melia Hanoi, including flights with Vietnam Airlines from Heathrow. Visit www.kuoni.co.uk or call 01306 747008 for further details.

ing-pot history – bright yellow and blue European-style houses sit alongside red-roofed temples from which the smell of incense wafts.

I take a stroll through the centre of town, which is designated for cyclists and pedestrians only, and across the famous Japanese Covered Bridge, then try my hand at bartering for some lacquered bowls and an ornamental tea set from one of the many stalls that line the streets.

Bargains struck, I make my way through the market where the hard-core haggling takes place.

With the sun set and my appetite suitably piqued, I head over to Morning Glory, a busy two-floored restaurant owned by local hero and former street food seller Miss Vy.

Named after an indigenous green leafy vegetable, Miss Vy's third eatery specialises in authentic Vietnamese cuisine, so it's no surprise when I'm served the best Goi Cuon – prawn summer rolls – I've ever tasted. These cold rice paper-wrapped beauties are fresh, soft, crunchy and flavoursome all at once – I could have happily devoured three platefuls myself.

But instead, I tuck into a deliciously salty smoked aubergine and pork hot-pot before calling it a night.

Film Reviews by Damon Smith



HIGH-RISE (15, 119 mins) Drama/Thriller

JG BALLARD'S chilling 1975 novel makes an awkward, yet stylistically sumptuous, transition to the big screen in the hands of Essex-born director Ben Wheatley.

Set almost entirely within a 40-storey monolith brutally forged

in concrete and steel, *High-Rise* charts the disintegration of society by pitting the lower, middle and upper classes against each other on their respective floors of the building.

Screenwriter Amy Jump retains the original setting, providing production designer Mark Tildesley with a blank canvas for cool and immaculate retro aesthetics that suggest a brave new world teetering on the brink of anarchy.

Explosions of violence spatter the lens as morality is cast aside, including one startling sequence of a man committing suicide by flinging himself off the building.

Costumes also perfectly evoke the swinging era, accompanied by a soundtrack composed by Clint Mansell that teases out notes of simmering discord.

A tone of jet black humour is injected in the opening frames as Dr Robert Laing sits on the balcony

of his flat, roasting the remains of a dog on a spit.

Man's best friend has become sizzling sustenance in a once pristine idyll that has degenerated into a battleground across the class divide. The narrative rewinds three months to Robert's arrival on the 25th floor.

He sunbathes naked and catches the eye of single mother Charlotte Melville, who lives upstairs with her precocious son, Toby.

She introduces Robert to some of the other residents, including officious busybody Nathan and documentary filmmaker Richard Wilder, who neglects his heavily pregnant wife Helen to chase other women.

The medic is granted a private audience with the building's architect, Anthony Royal, who lives in the penthouse with his emotionally brittle wife, Ann.

Power outages, which affect the



lower floors, stoke resentment, eventually sparking civil war which claims the life of one beloved pet and a number of the residents.

High-Rise revels in the debauchery of the era, with orgiastic scenes of group sex and consumer greed.

Tom Hiddleston is an engaging lead character, pandering to his fans with nudity and a dancing sequence that sees him frothing a

gaggle of uniform air hostesses in lustrous slow-motion.

As a coherent narrative that sustains interest for two hours, Wheatley's film has some structural weaknesses and his impeccably tailored vision will infuriate and bemuse as many people as it intoxicates.

I'm firmly in the former camp, still scratching my head.

WHO isn't tired, right? But - aside from how much sleep you're getting - how can you tell whether those excessive yawns are just a reaction to a busy week, or a sign of something more worrying?

If tiredness is really wearing you down, it's natural to worry there might be something more sinister going on with your health. The vast majority of the time, this won't be the case - however, there are occasions when it might be, and it's likely there will be other symptoms too.

"You know your body better than anyone - if you feel the tiredness you're experiencing is out of the ordinary, it's best to talk to a GP," says Adam Simon, chief medical officer at www.PushDoctor.co.uk and NHS GP.

Conditions linked to exhaustion include chronic fatigue syndrome, under-active thyroid and diabetes.

"If you're experiencing chronic tiredness over a period of weeks or months, this could indicate the possibility of a more serious problem.

"Similarly, if experiencing excessive tiredness in conjunction with other symptoms, like rapid weight loss, yellowing of the skin, digestive and bowel problems or mental health issues like depressive thoughts, consult your GP."

"Some prescription medications are known to cause tiredness, such as antidepressants, high blood pressure treatment and statin medication to manage high cholesterol. It's also im-



HEALTH: There are a number of people who can help if your tiredness is linked to a serious condition

Get some energy this spring

portant to remember that some over-the-counter medicines, such as Cocodamol, Paramol and Night Nurse, are known to cause drowsiness," says Anshu Bhimbat, LloydsPharmacy pharmacist.

"If you think your tiredness is being caused by medication, speak to your pharmacist, who can advise on avoiding or managing side effects.

"You can also ask at LloydsPharmacy if you're eligible for a free medicines check up, which helps customers understand if they're taking their medicines correctly and getting the most from them."

Our mental health can play a big part in things like energy levels, alertness and concentration. Stress is a normal part of life, but over time,

high levels of stress can wreak havoc with hormones, leading to chronic low mood and energy.

Anxiety can have similar affects, while depression has strong links with fatigue and low motivation. If you're concerned, speaking to your GP, or calling the Mind infoline (0300 123 3393), is a good place to start.

We all know diet and nutrition are

key factors in exhaustion.

Low iron and anaemia, a major cause of fatigue, are very common, but Sally Wisbey, resident nutritionist for natural liquid iron supplement Spatone, stresses the importance of a proper diagnosis.

"I always say: go and get blood tests done, and see what the results are," she said.

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Christian JP needs support

CHRISTIANITY is systematically being forced underground, while other religions appear to have so-called plights.

Those who have the power to put Christianity at the top of their agenda, are not doing so.

I am referring to the David Camerons of this world. Actions speak louder than words.

Magistrate Richard Page [Kent JP who was embroiled in controversy after he said his Christian beliefs made him convinced a child being adopted would be better with a male and female partnership, than a same-sex couple] is a wonderful example of what happens to Christians.

He hasn't even got freedom of speech. Over to you David Cameron and co; freedom of speech is not denied to you.

Richard Page should be supported at all levels. We are privileged to have him in our midst.

He has been heavily and unfairly penalised for his comments but, nevertheless, has shown great strength of character.

Mary McNulty,
 Brenchley

Driverless cars a recipe for chaos

IF driverless cars ever become a reality [KoS, last week] then car crashes will increase in numbers dramatically.

They are a highly irresponsible invention which will make motoring even more dangerous than it is now as a computerised car isn't reliable anywhere on the roads.

It will make drivers lazy and lose the concentration which is essential at all times.

Rosie Johnston,
 Ightham

Workers rights may not suffer

WHILE I agree with Dr Chung [Kos, 13.03] that at this time we do not know how existing laws and workplace arrangements would be addressed if we leave the EU, I think it is safe to assume that the European influence would not be eliminated overnight. If we stay in employment law will only grow in volume and complexity.

However I believe that Dr Chung has missed the important point and that is that almost every study

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Should we ditch our confidence in faith?

GIVEN the terrible events of this week is it not about time we all collectively come to our senses and appreciate that our many belief systems which have sparked so much hatred and division over the centuries are all very likely to be nothing other than mumbo jumbo?

Because by doing that, surely we liberate ourselves from using this misplaced faith we have in whatever deity we invest our emotions in, and can no longer use it as an excuse for persecuting anyone or any group.

From Brussels to Radovan Karadzic, Palestine to the Middle East, people are set against people purely by which religion they put their faith in.

Religions, each and every one, while having some basis in real people and real events, are then weaved into fairytales designed purely to make us feel better about our own inevitable deaths.

At the heart of all faiths is a supposed message of peace, love

and understanding. Yet the opposite is so often true.

Christianity may be one of the more benign religions today, but the Crusades proved it is not adverse to spilling blood whenever it deemed it necessary. Not to mention the desire that continues today of sending missionaries into remote areas and convincing the people that God should replace their more pagan idols.

The only faith worth investing our time in should surely be that of the power of nature. Something we can see around us. This is not created by some mythical person, but a remarkable wedding of science and our planet being in the right place at the right time. The provision of food and water is a miracle we can see on a daily basis.

The only flaw, it seems, in Mother Nature's plan was the creation of humans who can, as we see, so easily go off track.

G Walker
 Sittingbourne

concerning productivity suggests that workers are miserable, disengaged from their employers, and frustrated. Much of this I believe is due to the fact that the workplace is over-regulated and workers are treated as human resources and not as people.

The EU has much to blame for this. Dr Chung homed in on four pieces of legislation but I am not convinced in her appetite for their importance. Many employers and workers apply the opt-out clause in the Working Time Regulations (WTR) to gain greater flexibility and productivity; zero hours

contracts have developed as a reaction to the WTR and now almost one million workers are employed on such contracts (including managers, professional staff and manual workers); and there has been a solid growth in self-employed workers who have great flexibility in terms of contribution. Parental leave arrangements from my experience have not caught on.

The Agency Workers Directive (AWD) still provides employers who use temporary workers with significant financial gains and many employers have re-struct-

tured their work activities to reduce the impact of the AWD. Finally, TUPE legislation is now so complicated that mergers are virtually impossible without the aid of a legal team.

The EU through its bureaucrats and its European Court of Justice have brow beaten the member states into believing that one size fits all and it isn't working.

The UK has, since the recession, grown its labour force to record high numbers and has reduced unemployment much quicker than many countries in the EU but has not yet addressed labour productivity which is well behind many of its competitor nations. The way to do this in my opinion is to radically reduce 'red-tape' (including employment legislation) by either significantly reforming the EU by embracing free trade but reducing political influence and interference or by leaving the EU.

The UK has faced many great challenges in the past: recessions, wars, rationing, power cuts, workplace task masters, poor management, out of control trade unions, economic migration to name a few.

It has got to grips with them and moved on. Change is good and is necessary whatever it may be. If we do not embrace change we will not just stand still but will risk falling backwards.

Dr Hugh Billot,
 via email

Masts will be yet more eyesores

I READ the article about masts at Richborough [KoS, last week] and cannot believe Dover District Council can be involved with yet more eyesores within this area.

For years we had to put up with three redundant power station towers until they were eventually blown up, leaving just a mass of rusting ironwork.

Also still standing in this area is another waste of time and money; a derelict wind turbine that does absolutely nothing.

With the remains of the old Richborough Castle this whole area could be made into a lovely countryside tourist attraction not be littered with unsightly masts stuck up in the sky for all and sundry to see for miles.

Its about time Dover District Council had better things to consider and tried to sort out the disgusting state of the town of Dover and its surrounding area than dealing with countryside eyesores such as this.

LV Kerry,
 Eythorne

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

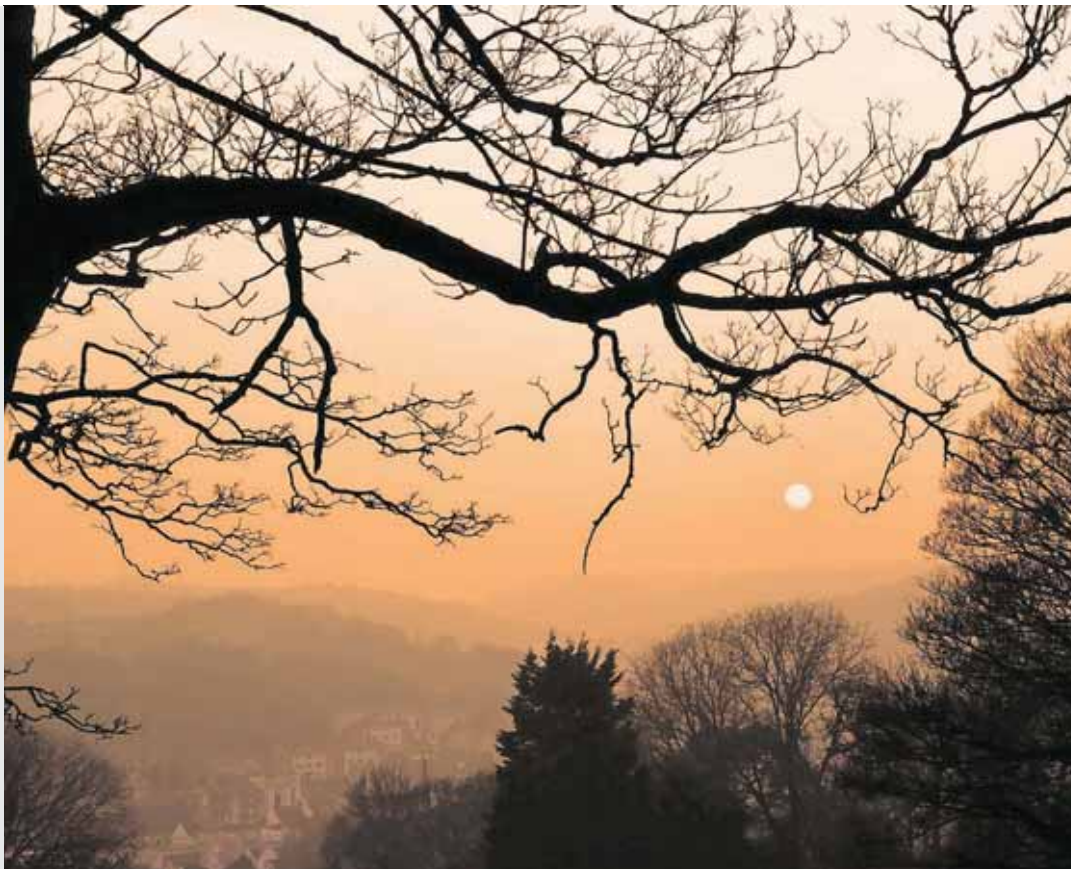
- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.
- 4) Not be overly sensational.
- 5) Have a sense of humour.
- 6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
- 7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
- 8) Highlight topical issues of concern to

people living in the county.

9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.

10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.



Connaught Park by **Brian van der Veen, Dover**

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By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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FREE: Citroën is now free to concentrate on distinctive yet affordable models like the C4 Cactus (above), the C3 hatchback (inset) and the C4 Picasso (below)

Citroën's marital dilemma is over

BRAND UPDATE: French marque is now free to concentrate on its famously distinctive yet affordable breed of cars and people carriers...

CITROËN'S divorce from DS is absolute. So ends an awkward relationship started in 2010 by the Citroën DS3, an all-new premium model from the radical French brand.

With that car now wearing the badge of the standalone DS Automobiles, both brands are free to develop separate dealer networks and, importantly for 'Citroënistas', Citroën can concentrate on its own distinctive yet affordable designs.

None of the current crop shows this heritage more than the C4 Cactus launched in 2014: capacious, comfortable to ride in, and laden with innovation – including car park bump side protection – it oozes thought and consideration as much as style.

It also showed how Citroën had another string to its bow apart from the now departed posh DS models and Picasso people carriers – the latter were starting to look like the tail wagging the dog.

The Picasso sub-brand launched with the Xsara Picasso (2000-10) spawning a line-up that now includes the capacious SUV-like C3 Picasso and versatile 5-7-seat C4 Picasso line-up.

Biggest beneficiaries from the DS divorce though will be mainstream 'C-Series' models; but mainstream only within the Citroën hierarchy, since they have their own distinctive style and appeal.



The easiest access to the whole Citroën range is the C1 city car: lively and cheap to run, it can also be had with a trendy coloured fabric roll-back roof for opentop fun on a tight budget.

Mid-range, there is the stylish yet practical C3 hatchback, while the family size C5 saloon and elegant and spacious estate spin-off could be a

bargain buy for its size.

Citroën also benefits from an engine line-up that is one of the best: diesel power was always a brand strength, but it extends across the petrol line-up too as long term co-operation between Citroën's PSA parent group and BMW bears fruit.

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Official Government fuel consumption figures (Range): Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO₂ emissions (g/km); Highest: New DS 3 THP 165 6-speed manual Prestige 7.1/39.8, 4.6/61.4, 5.6/50.4, 129. Lowest: New DS 3 BlueHDi 100 S&S manual Chic 3.8/74.3, 3.2/88.3, 3.4/83.1, 87. MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only, and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions.




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Bargain Duster looks all set to clean up

Best value budget SUV/crossover for new car buyers on a tight budget – even more so if you need 4x4 **writes Steve Loader...**

DACIA returned to the UK in 2013 with the re-born Duster and parent brand Renault's promise of a price dust-up.

Built in Romania and benefiting from low labour costs allied to thoroughly modern manufacture and powertrains, the reborn brand looked like a winner.

And while the cheaper Sandero supermini made the most of Dacia's 'shockingly affordable' promotion campaign by going on sale at £5,995, it was the Duster SUV-cum-crossover that caught the eye – it was a lot of car for a starting price of £8,995.

Alas, that figure has eased up to £9,495, but you are still buying an SUV for supermini money and nearly half the entry price for a Qashqai from Nissan – sister brand to Renault and Dacia.

Mind you, that only gets you a front-wheel-drive petrol Duster Access with a Spartan look inside and out: rubber bumpers, black roof rails, steel wheels and no radio – you heard right, or rather, will hear nothing unless you pay extra.

And you simply can't have a factory-fit sat nav on a Duster, though I would argue that you are better off with a no-nonsense



aftermarket TomTom anyway.

But most buyers trade up to a top-spec Duster Laureate (from £15,495), where standard kit includes alloys, air-con, electric windows, leather steering wheel, satin chrome roof-bars, heated and electrically-adjustable door-mirrors and a major cabin upgrade

Duster 4x4 versions are even better value: for a £1,000 premium over the front-wheel only versions, you get a capable cut-price off-roader.

As cars of this type go, the Duster is also a sleek design – if you avoid the ultra-cheapo Access – and incredibly practical.

There's generous head and



legroom for three adults across the back and a big 475-litre boot that expands to a 1,636-litre cargo space with seats flopped down – the class benchmark, the Qashqai, offers 430 and 1,585 litres respectively.

Don't expect a luxury cabin at this price, but the materials aren't horrible and do appear durable. My

Dacia Duster Ambiance dCi 110 4x4

Price:	from £13,995
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	a used Skoda Yeti

biggest grumble was the soft seats and their lack of lateral support.

The Duster also needs more insulation, particularly on the motorway when there is too much intrusion from tyres, wind and engine.

The high-riding Duster leans a bit on corners too and the steering feels vague, but ride comfort is good.

The test car's engine was Renault's much-loved 110PS (109bhp) 1.5dCi diesel, which delivers the required punch and performance.

A 115PS 1.6 petrol unit is also offered: performance is comparable and you will save £1,500 upfront on price, but economy is 30 per cent inferior so you need to estimate how much mileage your ownership will incur if you are to claw back the extra cash for the diesel via its superior mpg.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

M20 Junction 4 Eastern Over-bridge Widening

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

DETERMINATION UNDER SECTION 105 A (3) OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 (as amended)

The Highways England gives notice that it has been determined that the M20 Junction 4 Eastern Over-bridge Widening proposal which is a relevant project within the meaning of the section 105A (1) of the Highways Act 1980 is not subject to environmental impact assessment in accordance with Part VA of the Highways Act 1980 implementing Directive 2011/92/EU as amended.

This is due to the fact that the scheme has been assessed and it has been found that the residual effects of the scheme (construction and operation) are not significant, including those effects which are temporary and restricted to the construction phase and those cumulative effects of the scheme with other projects in the study area. As such, the impact of the works to the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty will be negligible.

Further information on the project and about this notice may be obtained from:

Alan Miles, Highways England
Tel No 0300 470 1191
Alan.miles@highwaysengland.co.uk

Section 17 Licensing Act 2003

Licensing Act 2003: Application for a new Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that *Hythe Bay Ltd* have applied to the Dover District Council on **17th March 2016** for a new premises licence for *Hythe Bay Seafood Restaurant and Bar, 41-45, Beach Street, Deal, Kent CT14 6HY*

The proposed application is to permit;

1. *the sale by retail of alcohol and*
2. *provision of late night refreshment.*

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation by **14th April 2016 (28 days the day after the application is received by the licensing department)** stating the grounds for making said representation to: Licensing Service, Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ.

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting at www.dover.gov.uk/Licensing and following the link to the public register.

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. Representations must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives (namely crime and disorder, public nuisance, public safety, or protection of children from harm.) It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

**Stephen Thomas LAW, Solicitors for the Applicant,
8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP**

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Triple Nine Transport Ltd of Unit Z, Transfesa Road, Paddock wood Distribution Centre, Paddock Wood, Kent TN12 6UU is applying to change an existing license as follows; To keep 14 units and 11 trailers at the operating centre Forstall House, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6PY.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

D J MORTIMORE LTD of 6 Falcon Mews, Vale Road, Northfleet, Gravesend DA11 8BW is applying to change an existing licence as follows

To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at 3 Ridham Dock, Iwade, Sittingbourne ME9 8SR

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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McMahon hails 'elite' goalkeeper

Brandon Hall kept a clean sheet for England C in Ukraine

Football

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

EBBSFLEET United boss Daryl McMahon has heaped praise on Brandon Hall, after the goalkeeper kept a clean sheet for England C this week.

The 22-year-old was making his second international appearance for Paul Fairclough's side in what proved to be a comfortable 2-0 win over Ukraine U20 in Kiev.

The International Challenge Trophy match saw Forest Green's Kurtis Guthrie open the scoring midway through the first half and England's tally was quickly doubled by Wrexham's Kayden Jackson.

With just one training session behind them, the England side gave a controlled performance and Hall played 90 minutes before being substituted at the end to allow Harrogate Town's Peter Crook to earn his first cap for his country.

Up next for England is a home game – venue to be confirmed – against Slovakia in June and Hall will have done his chances of featuring in that one no harm.

McMahon told KoS: "I'm delighted for Brandon, he played well, and it's great for the club to see him performing at an international level.

"We've got a lot of exciting young players here and hopefully we'll get to see more and more receiving call-ups."

McMahon brought in the highly-rated Nathan Ashmore for what was believed to be a substantial undisclosed fee last month, but insisted that Hall was very much still in his long-term plans as Fleet push to-



HOME: Ebbsfleet United's Stonebridge Road

wards promotion from the National League South.

"Brandon's only 22 and this is his first proper season so there's plenty more to come from him," he said.

"He's a talented lad with a bright future and I've got no doubt he's going to be an elite goalkeeper."

Vice chairman Peter Varney added: "It is an honour both for Brandon and the club that he was selected to start the match in Kiev and kept a clean sheet. I am confident he won't be the last of our talented squad to gain international recognition".

Gillingham re-sign fans' favourite Crofts

Football

FORMER Gillingham favourite Andrew Crofts has rejoined the club on loan from Brighton & Hove Albion.

The Welsh midfielder, who was born in Chatham and made his professional debut for the Gills in May 2001, played the full 90 minutes in last week's 1-1 draw against Southend United.

Crofts, 31, has signed on loan until the end of the season, but his parent club have a recall option after 28 days.

"It's a great opportunity to come back," said Crofts, who was named in the Wales squad for this weekend's fixtures against Northern Ireland and Ukraine.



BOSS: Justin Edinburgh

"With the European Championships coming up, I think it was important to get games under my

belt, and what better club to do it with than my hometown club.

"We've got a great set of boys here, it's a great dressing room, and we played some good stuff today.

"I've always had a real close relationship with the Gills fans, this club has always had a place in my heart, I'm looking forward to giving it everything I've got for them.

"It's my goal to get the Gills promoted, we're among the top teams, we've got nine massive games left."

Manager Justin Edinburgh described Crofts' arrival as a potentially crucial transfer in the club's promotion push.

"When someone of that quality becomes available, it's a massive signing of intent, a real marquee signing," he said.

Sport Shorts

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Double podium finish for Keston karter Jack

TEENAGE karting sensation Jack McCarthy is leading the way in the UK Championships after a double podium finish in the first round last weekend.

Jack, 15, from Keston completed the heats in Cumbria in second place, and made the most of his front-row start, out-pacing the pole-sitter Josh Skelton and then leading for the following seven laps.

Skelton retook the advantage before McCarthy seized it with four laps remaining, opening a quarter of a second gap to seal victory and pole position for the following second final.

An aggressive start saw him pushed back to fourth during the opening exchanges of Final Two but Jack grew into the race and attempted to pass leader Josh White around the outside.

With the leader holding his line, Jack ran onto the marbles and struggled for traction as they accelerated away down the hill, and Jack lost ground, meaning he sensibly opted to take a safe second rather than risk it all for glory.



JACK: Photo by Chris Walker



INJURED: Dina Asher-Smith

Asher-Smith pulls out of 60m indoor final

ORPINGTON sprinter Dina Asher-Smith was forced to pull out of the World Indoor Championships 60m final in Portland, USA, last weekend with a tight hamstring.

The 20-year-old, who became the fastest teenager in history at the World Championships in Beijing last year, felt she was in shape to beat her personal best of 7.07sec, but she and her team made the decision not to

run after her semi-final.

Thanking fans for messages of good luck and concern on Twitter, she said: "Gutted that I had to pull out of the final. Annoying hamstring."

As Great Britain flew home with only a silver medal in the high jump, it represented the team's worst showing at the championships for a decade.

Change of chairman at Margate

MARGATE chairman Bob Laslett has stepped down and will be replaced by former director John Webb, the club announced this week.

The decision was made to pass the baton onto a younger person who has been heavily involved with the club, as Webb has with the youth over the last two years.

Ivan Laslett has also decided to step down in favour of someone

younger, meaning Chris Pope will take over the role of vice-chairman while also continuing as chief executive.

A spokesperson for the club said: "John and Chris who between them have many years' experience in business and football management will make an excellent team to lead the club positively forward and realise further success."

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